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SUBSTANCE ABUSE AMONG WOMEN AND PARENTS

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reported in Appendix 2.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides data on substance abuse by women of childbearing age and by parents and examines the number of children potentially at risk because of parental drug abuse. The study is based primarily on data from the 1991 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse (NHSDA) but also includes 1991 data from the Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN). This study reflects the first attempt to address this topic using data from some of these sources, notably the NHSDA. The study was sponsored jointly by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation and the National Institute on Drug Abuse, with technical assistance from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Estimates from the NHSDA should be regarded as conservative because of potential underreporting of drug use.

PRIMARY FINDINGS

The basic findings of this study are:

(1) Parents with children in the household use illicit drugs less often than do men and women ages 15-44 without children. Past-month illicit drug use is reported by 5.7 percent of women ages 15 - 44 with children in the home compared to 11.2 percent of women ages 15 - 44 without children. Rates for men show similar patterns.

(2) Based on this analysis, it is estimated that there are approximately 6 million children under 18 years of age (9 percent of all such children) whose parent(s) have used illicit drugs in the past month. Marijuana is the illicit drug used most often by parents.

(3) Contrary to expectations, there is little difference in rates of illicit drug use among parents in large metropolitan areas, small metropolitan areas, and nonmetropolitan areas.

(4) The prevalence of illicit drug use among parents has similar demographic patterns as does drug use in the general population. Use rates differ according to income/poverty status, employment, education, age, race/ethnic@, and marital status.

(5) In addition to illicit drug use, the study examined the prevalence of binge alcohol consumption among parents. Consumption of five or more drinks at one time on at least three occasions in the past 30 days is reported by 5.2 million parents (4 percent of mothers and 13 percent of fathers).

PARENTAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND CHILDREN AT RISK

Nationwide, an estimated 12.8 million children under 18 years of age live with a parent who reportedly has used illicit drugs in the past year. This figure, which is derived from the 1991 NHSDA, represents approximately 18 percent of all children in this age group. Of the 12.8 million children, approximately 6 million -- 9 percent of children under 18 years old -- have parents who report having used illicit drugs in the past month. Illicit drug use includes any use of illegal drugs such as cocaine. marijuana, heroin, or hallucinogens and nonmedical use of prescription psychotherapeutic drugs such as tranquilizers, stimulants, sedatives, and analgesics. Marijuana is the illicit drug used most often by parents.

Children under 18 years old who live with at least one parent who uses drugs tend to be younger than children overall. For example, 20 percent of children of both past-year and past-month drug users are under 3 years old. whereas 17 percent of all children are in this age group. This is consistent with the findings. discussed below, that drug use is more prevalent among younger parents than among older parents.

Overall, 4.6 million self-reported past-month drug users have biologically-related minor children, and 63 percent of these parents, including 78 percent of mothers and 49 percent of fathers, have at least one of their children living with them. With the addition of stepchildren and adopted children, an estimated 3.4 million past-month drug users are parents and have their minor children living with them. Among all parents in this category, the prevalence rate of past-month drug use is 5.3 percent.

Analyses of data on parents' use of specific drugs show the following:

- The prevalence of past-month marijuana use among parents is 4.1 percent overall (2.6 million parents), 3.6 percent for mothers, and 4.7 percent for fathers. Weekly use of marijuana over the past year is reported by 1.4 million parents, and daily or almost daily use of this drug over the past year is reported by almost 900.000 parents.

- Use of cocaine (including crack) in the past 12 months is reported by 1.8 million parents (a prevalence rate of 2.9 percent), and past-30-day use of this drug is reported by approximately 625,000 parents. An estimated 170,000 parents reportedly used cocaine weekly for the past year.

- Although not included in the category of illicit drugs, episodic heavy (binge) drinking -- consumption of five or more drinks of alcohol on at least three occasions in the past 30 days -- is reported by 5.2 million parents (a prevalence rate of 8.1 percent overall, 4 percent for mothers, and 13 percent for fathers). Daily or almost daily alcohol use over the past year is reported by 5.2 million parents (a prevalence rate of 8.2 percent overall, 3.8 percent for mothers, and 14 percent for fathers).

As noted above. drug use patterns differ by age, race/ethnicity, marital status, education, employment status. and family income. These patterns are similar to what previous research has shown occurs in the general population. Some important patterns are:

- As with drug users generally, illicit drug use rates generally are higher for younger parents than for older parents. The highest rates of drug use are seen for parents 20 to 25 years of age. In this group, the prevalence rates for any illicit drug use are 24 percent for past-year use and 12 percent for past-month use.

- Prevalence rates differ according to parents' marital status. The rate of past-month use of any illicit drug, for example, is 13.2 percent among never-married parents, 10.8 percent among divorced or separated parents, and 4.0 percent among currently married parents. Age differences among these groups may explain some of the differences in drug use rates. These findings are similar to those previous research has established for the general population.

- Rates of drug use also differ according to employment status and educational level. Rates of past-month drug use are 17 percent for parents who are unemployed and just under 5 percent for those who are employed either full time or part time. Based on educational level, the highest rate of past-month drug use, 9.8 percent, is found for persons who did not complete high school.

- Population density is less strongly associated with differences in drug use rates than was expected. For example, the prevalence rates for past-month drug use are 5.2 percent in metropolitan areas of over 1 million, 6.0 percent in smaller metropolitan areas, and 4.7 percent in nonmetropolitan areas. Past-year drug use prevalence rates across the three types of areas vary less than 1 percentage point (from 11.O percent for large metropolitan areas to 11.9 percent for nonmetropolitan areas).

- Consistent with findings about drug use in the general population, differences in drug use rates are found for parents of different family income levels. For example. the prevalence rate for past-month illicit drug use among parents below the poverty line, 9.5 percent, is higher than the rate for those above the poverty line. 4.6 percent. It is important to note that while the rates of drug use are

higher among poor parents, most substance-abusing parents and their children are not poor. In fact, nearly three-fourths of past-month drug-using parents have incomes above the poverty line, and over one-fourth have incomes more than three times the poverty line.

CONCLUSION

Parents with children in the home use illicit drugs less frequently than do men and women (ages 15 - 44) without children. Still, this analysis found that an estimated 12.8 million children live with parent(s) who report illicit drug use in the past year, and 6.2 million live with parents(s) who report past month illicit drug use. Where substance abuse is serious enough to affect parental functioning, some of these children may suffer deleterious social and emotional effects. In addition, some of the children in substance-abusing families will have been exposed to alcohol and other drugs prenatally. The data presented in this report show that drug use among parents, as among the general household population, appears to be closely related to age, income/poverty status. and a host of other factors which are themselves interrelated.

The fact that many families and children are directly affected by alcohol and drug abuse strongly suggests that mainstream service providers working with families in health, social services, and education systems need to be aware of the potential for abuse of alcohol and drugs among their clients. and should play an active role in identifying and intervening with families, including referral for appropriate treatment. Drug treatment programs must recognize that a portion of individuals seeking their services are likely to be families with young children, and that services appropriate to families are needed. Moreover, the effectiveness of services for children and families at risk would be enhanced through better coordination among providers.

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Overview

Parental substance abuse, particularly among mothers, is an issue of increasing concern to policymakers due to its growing impact on the Nation's health and welfare systems (U.S. General Accounting Office, 1992). There is evidence that parental substance abuse may play a role in a range of pressing problems, from homelessness among families (Institute of Medicine [IOM], 1988a) to child abuse and neglect (Cohn, 1983). Drug use by pregnant women can adversely affect the prenatal development of their infants, leading to low birth weight, fetal or infant death, and other developmental problems (IOM, 1988b). Parents who are caught up in substance abuse may be unable to provide adequate nurturing and support to their children; the result can be considerable financial costs to society and tragic human costs to the children (Famularo, Kinscherff, and Fenton, 1992).

Most of the information available on parental drug use has come from limited studies and anecdotal evidence. Over the past few years, additional data elements have been incorporated in several major surveys to capture information about substance-abusing women and parents. However, the available data have not been subjected to detailed secondary analysis to develop descriptive studies of substance-abusing women and parents and of children at risk because of parental substance abuse. This report draws together available data on substance abuse by women of childbearing age and by parents, including the demographic characteristics of parents who report drug use and those who do not, the patterns of alcohol and other drug use, children at risk because of parental substance abuse, perinatal health care received by pregnant women, and pregnancy outcomes.

The organization of this report is as follows. The remainder of Chapter I provides an overview of the data sources, including their characteristics and limitations. Chapter II provides data from the 1991 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse (NHSDA) and presents tables on characteristics of substance-abusing women, parental substance abuse and children at risk. Chapter III covers 1991 data from the Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) and presents tables on specific drugs mentioned in emergency room (ER) episodes involving women 15 to 44 years

old, according to the women's race/ethnicity and age. Chapter IV presents a summary and discussion of the data from these sources.

B. Data Sources, Characteristics, and Limitations

As noted above, the data provided in this report derive primarily from two sources: the 1991 NHSDA and DAWN. The NHSDA provides information on rates of drug use in the general household population, including women and parents, the groups of present interest. DAWN provides information on adverse medical consequences of drug abuse in the form of ER episodes and medical examiner (ME) cases involving drug abuse. The DAWN data analyzed for this report focus on ER episodes involving women of childbearing age.

Selected differences between drug use prevalence rates shown in tables based on the NHSDA have been tested to determine their statistical significance. The results of these tests are shown in Appendix 1 and reported in the text. Where differences are reported to be statistically significant, one can conclude, with a specified level of confidence, that repeated samples from the household population would continue to find that the two estimates were different. Other comparisons discussed in the findings for all three data sets, however, have not been tested statistically. Many of the estimates are based on relatively small numbers of sample units. The precision of the estimates has been checked, and estimates not meeting criteria established by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (MDA) are not presented (see detailed discussions of criteria below). However, where statistical testing has not been performed, it is not known whether specific differences cited in the report would be replicable in repeated sampling.

Subsequent to the initial analysis, data from the 1992 NHSDA became available. Appendix 2 describes some preliminary results from that analysis.

The following sections provide basic information on each of these data sources and present key elements of the methodology used to analyze the data.

1. NHSDA

The 1991 NHSDA is the 1 lth in a series of national cross-sectional probability surveys undertaken by NIDA to obtain accurate data on levels and patterns of drug and alcohol use and abuse. Relevant to the present report, the NHSDA provides information on whether the

respondent has children and, if so, the ages of the children and whether they reside with the respondent.

The major indicators of drug-use prevalence reported from the NHSDA data are (1) ever use/lifetime prevalence, (2) past-12-month use/annual prevalence, and (3) past-30-day use/current use. The universe for the NHSDA is the general U.S. household population 12 years of age and older. Alaska and Hawaii were excluded from prior NHSDA surveys but included in the 199 1 survey. The 1991 NHSDA also provides data from noninstitutional group quarters.

The 1991 NHSDA has a sample size of approximately 33,000. The sample was stratified by age to permit oversampling of younger respondents to allow more detailed analysis and to support more precise estimates for these age groups. In addition to young people, the 1991 NHSDA includes an oversampling of blacks; Hispanics; and residents of the Chicago, Denver, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, and Washington, D.C., metropolitan areas. The 1991 survey also includes oversamplings of persons in low-income areas in the urbanized sections of these metropolitan areas.

Homeless persons and active military personnel are excluded from the NHSDA universe, but civilians living on military bases are included. The survey also excludes residents of institutions such as long-term hospitals and jails. Residents of noninstitutional group quarters such as dormitories and shelters, however, are included in the 1991 NHSDA. Interpretations of the NHSDA data must take into account these exclusions. Estimates from the survey may be conservative due to these exclusions and possible biasing effects of nonresponse and underreporting. The NHSDA is not a particularly good source of data on abuse of heroin and other serious drug problems because many of the affected individuals are unlikely to be reached in a household survey and because the overall rates of use of these substances is relatively low.

Persons participating in the NHSDA are interviewed in their homes, with parental consent obtained for respondents 12 to 17 years of age. Information on nonmedical drug use is recorded by the respondent on separate, private answer sheets with codes but no individual identifiers. These answer sheets are placed in an envelope and mailed without being inspected by the enumerator. This and other procedures are used to reduce respondents' inhibitions about reporting drug use.

Drugs specifically covered in the NHSDA include marijuana, including hashish; cocaine, including crack; inhalants; hallucinogens, including PCP; heroin; alcohol; cigarettes and smokeless

tobacco; and stimulants, sedatives, tranquilizers, and analgesics (used nonmedically). Data also are tabulated to produce an indication of any illicit drug use, regardless of the specific substance.

The present report focuses on two types of information from the 199 1 NHSDA: (1) substance abuse by women of childbearing age (i.e., 15 to 44 years); and (2) substance abuse by parents who live with their children, and the numbers and ages of children at risk. The following paragraphs outline the methods used to tabulate and analyze the NHSDA data for this report.

Identifying Persons With Children. In the NHSDA data set, variables related to children include (1) the number of living biological children of the respondent, (2) the age and sex of each biological child, (3) the numbers of biological children in selected age categories, (4) the number of biological children who live in the household with the respondent, and (5) the number of stepchildren or adopted children of the respondent who live in the household. The ages of the stepchildren or adopted children are not known. In addition, no direct information is available on the ages of the biological children living in the household; this fact is important in cases where the respondent has more biological children than are living in the respondent's household. Although various conditions based on these variables are considered, the tabulations of parents in most of the tables in sections C and D of Chapter II are based on persons who have (1) one or more biological children under 18 years of age or of unreported age and biological children living with them or (2) any stepchildren or adopted children living with them. As respondents may have more biological children than those living with them, it is possible that none of the children living in the household would be under 18 years of age. For operational purposes, it was assumed that the youngest children are the ones living with the respondent.

Basic Definitions for Counting Children. Two definitions are used to obtain counts of children. The first, biological children under 18 or any stepchildren or adopted children living in the household, is implemented by taking the smaller of the number of biological children under 18 years old (or of unknown age) and the number of biological children living in the household, then adding the number of stepchildren or adopted children living in the household. The second definition is simply the number of biological children under 18 years old, which is used to obtain the age distributions of the children. This definition is somewhat problematic because some of the children may not live with the respondent.

Special Methods for Counting Children Overall and Children of Substance Abusers. Obtaining counts of children poses additional problems in the NHSDA because the weights apply to each person, not each household. As children can be reported by either their

mother or their father, double counting is a problem. Double counting occurs when the respondent has a spouse/partner in the household, because the weights adjust for multiple eligible persons in the household. To circumvent this problem, the data were separated into four types of cases: (1) male respondents with no spouse/partner living in the household, (2) female respondents with no spouse/partner living in the household, (3) male respondents with a spouse/partner living in the household, and (4) female respondents with a spouse/partner living in the household.

In counting total children, children of male and female respondents without spouses/partners were considered, and the number of children of women with spouses/partners was added in as the estimate for the number of children in two-parent households. The estimate of the total number of children under 18 years of age in households obtained from the NHSDA data using this method was around 69 million; the Census Bureau's Civilian Noninstitutional Population estimate of children in this age bracket was around 66 million. Taking into account sampling variability in the NHSDA data, these estimates are very similar. This suggests that NHSDA respondents answer questions about their children with reasonable accuracy.

For children of parents who use drugs, the children of both male and female respondents without spouses/partners were considered if the respondents used drugs. This represented children at risk in those two categories. Children of women who had a spouse/partner in the household and who used drugs then were added in; this represented children at risk because of maternal drug abuse in two-parent situations. At this point it was necessary to estimate the number of children at risk because of paternal drug abuse in two-parent households where the mother was not a drug user. As no correlational information was available to establish the joint probabilities, the marginal proportions for fathers' drug use were assumed to apply. Thus, the estimate for this final component was obtained by multiplying the number of children of non-drug-abusing mothers by 0.057, the overall proportion of fathers who were past-month drug abusers, or by 0.122, the proportion of fathers who were past-year drug abusers.

This approach assumes a 0.0 correlation between spousal drug abuse. For that reason, it overestimates the number of children to some unknown extent. However, in the absence of applicable data on the correlation of spouses' substance abuse, any alternative approach also would result in bias. This problem applies when estimating total children at risk and does not pertain when estimating children at risk because of only the mother's or the father's drug use.

Drug Use Variables. The drug abuse variables analyzed in this report focused primarily on illicit drug use in the 30-day period prior to the interview and illicit drug use in the 12-

month period prior to the interview. Illicit drug use refers to (1) any use of marijuana (including hashish), cocaine (including crack), heroin, hallucinogens, or other illegal drugs; or (2) nonmedical use of psychotherapeutic drugs, including prescription analgesics, tranquilizers, sedatives, and stimulants. Drug variables tabulated in this analysis also include past-30-day (past-month) and past-12-month (past-year) use of marijuana, cocaine, and psychotherapeutic drugs. Additional tabulation of selected alcohol use variables are provided; these include (1) reported weekly consumption of alcohol over the year prior to the interview; (2) reported daily or almost daily consumption of alcohol over the year prior to the interview; and (3) indicators of binge drinking based on the number of days, in the month before the interview, when the respondent consumed five or more alcoholic drinks.

Demographic and Related Variables. Estimates of drug users in this report are presented according to sex, race/ethnicity, age, employment status, educational level, population density of place of residence, and family income relative to poverty level. NHSDA documentation and main findings reports contain information on each of these variables. In general, the variables used include imputations and recodes for missing and unknown values. For employment status and educational level, the variables in the file include special categories for persons under 18 years of age. In this report, these categories were tabulated along with the other categories, and the percentages are taken over all (weighted) cases.

Poverty Level. Tabulations of annual family income relative to poverty level were based on an algorithm that determined the poverty level income for each case based on the number of persons in the household. The parameters for this algorithm ($6,620 for the first person plus $2,260 for each additional person in the family) were based on the 1991 Social Security Administration's poverty income guidelines for families of specified sizes, as published in the *Social Security Bulletin, Annual Statistical Supplement 1991.* It should be noted that these guidelines are somewhat different from the Census Bureau's poverty thresholds used for NIDA's tabulations of poverty status. Missing data on the number of persons in the household made it impossible in some cases to determine the poverty level threshold applicable to a particular respondent. In these cases, the respondent's data were excluded from the tabulations of poverty status and income. Thus, for example, the estimated totals in Table II.B.10, which shows women 15 to 44 years of age by these two variables, are less than those in other tables in Section II.B.

Estimation and Precision. The data presented in this report were generated using the "ANALWT" weight variable, which produces estimates based on the full sample (minus specific

exclusions as noted). The precision of all estimates presented in this report has been assessed using a computer software package that takes into account complex sample design effects.

For some time NIDA has followed a policy of suppressing imprecise (unstable or unreliable) estimates. The determination of precision is based on rules regarding the relative standard error (RSE) of estimates. Previously the rule stated that any estimate with an RSE of 50 percent or higher should not be published; the 95 percent confidence interval for such estimates usually includes zero. NIDA recently implemented a new rule designed to prevent unstable estimates from being published while not being too conservative by suppressing useful data. This new rule, which applies to rates, proportions, percentages, etc., states that estimates should be suppressed if $RSE[-\ln(P)] > 0.175$ for $P \leq 0.5$ or if $RSE[-\ln(1-P)] > 0.175$ for $P > 0.5$, where P is the proportion. Compared to the old rule, this new rule is more liberal in allowing small prevalence rates to be published but more stringent in the suppression of prevalence rates of 5 percent and above. For example, under the new rule a prevalence rate of about 1 percent must be based on a sample of 150 or more persons to be published. The old rule would have required a sample size of 400 or more for a 1 -percent prevalence rate. A 20-percent prevalence rate requires a minimum sample size of 50 under the new rule, while the old rule required only 16.

In this report, this new rule has been applied in determining the publishability of estimates of rates and percentages from the NHSDA and NMIHS. In the tables, estimates that fail to meet the applicable criterion of precision are replaced with the symbol "..." (three periods).

Statistical Difference Testing. As indicated above, selected differences in drug use prevalence rates based on the NHSDA data have been tested to determine their statistical significance. The discussion of the findings provides information on the results of the statistical tests, and tables containing estimates that have been tested are identified in the footnotes. The appendix provides an explanation of the procedures used in conducting these tests and presents the detailed results of each test.

When two prevalence rates are found to be significantly different, it does not necessarily imply that the difference is large or important. What it means is that one can conclude (with a small risk of error), that the two prevalence rates would be found to be different if the survey were replicated with different samples drawn from the same population using the same procedures. This implies that the differences cannot be attributed solely to sampling error.

It should be noted that most of the comparisons made in the discussion of the NHSDA findings have not been subjected to statistical testing. For these comparisons, it is not known whether the differences reported could be replicated in repeated sampling.

2. DAWN

DAWN, sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), collects data on ER episodes and ME cases related to drug abuse. This report focuses on the ER data, which are derived from a probability sample of non-Federal, general surgical and medical hospitals that are located throughout the coterminous United States and have a 24-hour ER. The estimates presented are representative of all drug abuse ER episodes that occurred at hospitals in this universe.

These cases include episodes involving any use of illicit drugs; use of licit drugs without medical supervision or in a manner inconsistent with approved labeling; or use of nondrug substances such as household solvents, aerosols, and glues. To qualify as a DAWN case, drug use must be due to (1) the desire to achieve psychic effects (i.e., recreational use), (2) dependence, or (3) a suicide attempt. Drug abuse episodes involving suicide are excluded from the present analysis because these cases may not involve drug abuse as it generally is understood by researchers or the general public. The reason for ER contact in drug abuse episodes reported to DAWN generally is an overdose, an unexpected reaction to the drug, chronic effects of drug use, withdrawal, an accident or injury related to drug use, and cases in which patients are seeking detoxification prior to entry into a drug abuse treatment program.

Once an episode is determined to be drug related, all drugs mentioned in the medical record usually are reported to DAWN because it often is difficult to determine from the record whether each drug was abused. Many of the episodes involve mention of multiple drugs. For this reason, not all of the drugs reported are necessarily the cause of the ER episode, and not all of the substances are necessarily abused drugs.

DAWN is a record-review system. Reporters at the participating hospitals review the medical records of ER patients to identify cases of drug abuse. Although medical staff in the ER may question patients about their drug use, the DAWN reporters generally are restricted to extracting the information from the medical records.

In using the DAWN data, it must be remembered that the estimates pertain to adverse medical consequences of drug abuse and not to instances of drug abuse per se. In addition, it must be recognized that the profile of drug-related ER episodes may be influenced heavily by the overall characteristics of ER patients. Hospital ER's see a large volume of not only acute emergencies but also subacute conditions. The population of patients may be biased toward individuals without health insurance and those without a regular physician. These biases may affect the distribution of drugs reported and the drug use characteristics associated with these episodes.

For the present analysis, ER episodes involving women 15 to 44 years of age have been selected. As noted above, episodes in which suicide was reported as the motive for drug use have been excluded. The estimates presented here are, as noted previously, derived from a statistical sample of hospitals. As such, they are subject to sampling variation. The precision of the estimates has been checked, and estimates found to have an RSE of 50 percent or higher have been suppressed following NIDA's old rule (cf. Section I.B. 1 above). Estimates not meeting this criterion are replaced, in the table cells, with the symbol "..." (three periods).

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II. THE 1991 NATIONAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY OF DRUG ABUSE (NHSDA)

This chapter presents estimates based on data from the 1991 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse (NHSDA). Section A presents information on the nature and limitations of the NHSDA data as they relate to this report. The estimates included pertain to drug use by women of childbearing age (Section B), and drug use by parents and their children at risk (Section C).

A. Nature and Limitations of the Data

As indicated in the introduction, estimates from the NHSDA are representative of the U.S. household population 12 years of age and older. For the first analysis presented here, female respondents 15 to 44 years of age were selected, and drug use patterns were examined in this population according to age, race/ethnicity, educational level, employment status, population density of place of residence, and family income relative to the poverty level income. The second analysis considers substance abuse by parents who reside with their children and examines these same factors.

The methods used to analyze the NHSDA data are outlined in Chapter I above. As described in that chapter, parents included in Sections B and C of this chapter are individuals 15 years of age and older who have their own children under 18 years old or who have stepchildren or adopted children of any age living in their household. Estimates of the total number of children and of children of drug abusers are subject to problems of double counting. Statistical methods have been applied to correct this problem, but these methods may result in some degree of overestimation.

As stated in Chapter I, selected differences discussed in this chapter have been subjected to statistical testing. Refer to Appendix 1 for information on contrasts for which tests have been conducted and for the results of the statistical tests.

B. Characteristics of Substance-Abusing Women

Drug use among women in their childbearing years, primarily ages 15 to 44, is of considerable interest due to the negative impact of maternal substance abuse on infants and children, in addition to the impact on the users themselves. Research has shown that drug use by pregnant women can adversely affect the prenatal development of their infants (Institute of Medicine [IOM], 1988b), and drug use by mothers with infants and dependent children can lead to inadequate nurturing, child neglect, or child abuse (Famularo, Kinscherff, and Fenton, 1992). Thus, this section of the report focuses on the substance abuse of women during their primary childbearing ages, 15 to 44 years, and seeks to answer a number of urgent questions: How widespread is drug abuse among these women? Which drugs do they use? How do drug use patterns differ by characteristics of the women such as age, race/ethnic&y, marital status, employment status, education, urban or rural residence, household income, and parental status?

1. Prevalence of Substance Abuse by Women

The 1991 NHSDA reveals that 4.6 million women 15 to 44 years of age, or slightly less than 8 percent of all women in that age bracket, used an illicit drug in the previous month, as shown in Table II.B. 1. More than twice that many women report using an illicit drug in the past year. The primary illicit drugs used are marijuana, psychotherapeutic drugs used nonmedically, and cocaine. Table II.B. 1 shows a prevalence rate of 5.6 percent for marijuana use in the past month and 12.2 percent for use in the past year. A much smaller prevalence rate, 2.1 percent, is found for psychotherapeutic drugs used nonmedically in the past month; this rate rises to 6.0 percent for nonmedical use in the past year. Cocaine (including crack) is reportedly used by 1 .O percent of women in the past month and slightly more than 3.4 percent in the past year.

Estimates of the prevalence of self-reported alcohol use are shown in Table II.B.2. As an indicator of frequent use of alcohol, nearly 8.7 million women 15 to 44 years of age (14.7 percent of all women in that age bracket) report using alcohol weekly or almost weekly for the past year, and 2.4 million (4.1 percent) report using it daily or almost daily. As an indicator of heavy episodic (binge) drinking, 11.9 percent report drinking five or more drinks on at least one occasion in the past month, and 5.6 percent report doing so at least three times in the past month.

Table II.B.I - Prevalence of drug use by women 15-44 years of age according to type of drug and recency of use: 1991

Drug	Past-month use		Past-year use [1]	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Any illicit drug [2]	4,619,555	7.8	9,683,277	16.4
Marijuana	3,343,495	5.6	7,225,343	12.2
Cocaine	601,466	1.0	2,041,749	3.4
Psychotherapeutic drugs [3]	1,242,668	2.1	3,540,575	6.0

1 Includes past-month use.

2 Includes any nonmedical use of marijuana or hashish, cocaine (including crack), inhalants, hallucinogens (including PCP), heroin, or psychotherapeutic drugs.

3 Nonmedical use.

NOTE: Rates are based on a total of 59,192,863 women 15-44 years of age.

SOURCE: NIDA, 1991 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse.

Table II.B.2- Prevalence of alcohol use by women 15-44 years of age according to pattern and frequency of use: 1991

Pattern/frequency of alcohol use	Number	Rate
Weekly or almost weekly for past year	8,694,080	14.7
Daily or almost daily for past year (included in weekly-use category)	2,424,616	4.1
Five or more drinks on one occasion at least once in the past month	7,015,327	11.9
Five or more drinks on one occasion at least three times in the past month	3,314,503	5.6
Total women 15-44 years old	59,1 92,863	100.0

SOURCE: NIDA, 1991 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse.

2. Demographic Characteristics of Substance-Abusing Women

Tables lI.B.3 through II.B.9 compare demographic characteristics of women 15 to 44 years of age who report drug use and all women in this age range. The tables show both (1) the percent distribution of women by demographic characteristic within user category and (2) the rate of past-month and past-year drug use by demographic characteristic. Table II.B.3 shows that women who report drug use in the past year or the past month are disproportionately younger women: Although about one-third of all women 15 to 44 years old are younger than age 26, over one-half of the women who report drug use are in that age group. The proportion of women 36 to 44 years old in the drug-using groups is much lower than their proportion in the total population: 16 percent, compared with 29 percent.

Similarly, Table II.B.3 also shows that the prevalence of illicit drug use is highest among women 18 to 19 years old; in this group, the rate of past-month drug use is 16 percent, and the rate of past-year drug use is 3 1 percent. The second-highest rate of illicit drug use is among women 20 to 25 years old, of whom 13 percent used drugs in the past month and 26 percent in the past year. The disproportionately younger ages of the drug-using groups are likely to influence other characteristics of these groups, as noted below.

Table II.B.4 shows the distribution of women by race/ethnicity. The proportion of white non-Hispanic women among past-year users, 77 percent, is slightly higher than their 73 percent representation in the total population. The proportion of black non-Hispanic women among past-year users, 13.2 percent, is approximately the same as in the overall population, and the proportion of Hispanic women, 6.2 percent, is lower than their proportion in the total population. Among past-month users, the proportions of white women and Hispanic women are similar to their proportions of the total population, while the proportion of black women is somewhat higher.

Focusing on prevalence, Table II.B.4 also shows that the rate of past-month drug use is highest among black women, 9.6 percent, but the rate of past-year use is highest among white women, 17 percent. Hispanic women have the lowest rate of both past-month and past-year use. Statistical testing of the estimates in this table shows no significant differences between white and black women. Hispanic women had significantly lower drug use rates than white women ($p<0.05$ for past-month drug use and $p<0.001$ for past year drug use) and black women ($p<0.001$ for both past-month and past-year drug use). See the appendix for further information on the results of statistical tests involving the prevalence rates in this table.

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Table II.B.3 - Distribution of women 15-44 years of age by age according to reported drug use pattern, and rate of drug use in age groups: 1991

Age	Past-month use			Past-year use			Total women in category	
	Number	Percent distrib.	Rate	Number	Percent distrib.	Rate	Number	Percent distrib.
15-l 7 years	469,516	10.2	9.7	971,436	10.0	20.1	**4,840,206**	8.2
18-l 9 years	558,620	12.1	15.6	**1,100,185**	11.4	30.6	**3,591,066**	6.1
20-25 years	**1,379,608**	29.9	12.6	**2,825,566**	29.2	25.8	**10,962,055**	18.5
26-30 years	780,213	16.9	7.2	**1,705,178**	17.6	15.8	**10,792,537**	18.2
31-35 years	689,491	14.9	5.8	**1,549,959**	16.0	13.0	**11,943,859**	20.2
36-40 years	508,968	11.0	5.0	974,945	10.1	9.6	**10,183,770**	17.2
41-44 years	233,139	5.0	3.4	556,008	5.7	8.1	**6,879,369**	11.6
Total	**4,619,555**	100.0	7.8	**9,683,277**	100.0	16.4	**59,192,863**	100.0

NOTE: Drug use includes any nonmedical use of marijuana or hashish, cocaine (including crack), inhalants, hallucinogens (including PCP), heroin, or psychotherapeutic drugs. Numbers and percentages may not sum to totals because of rounding. Past-year use includes use in the past month.

SOURCE: NIDA, 1991 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse.

Table II.B.4 - Distribution of women 15-44 years of age by race/ethnic& according to reported drug use pattern, and rate of drug use in race/ethnic@ groups: 1991

Race/ ethnicity	Past-month use			Past-year use			Total women in category	
	Number	Percent distrib.	Rate	Number	Percent distrib.	Rate	Number	Percent distrib.
White non-Hispanic	**3,357,490**	72.7	7.7	**7,494,778**	77.4	17.3	**43,428,925**	73.4
Black non-Hispanic	769,690	16.7	9.6	**1,278,254**	13.2	15.9	**8,030,865**	13.6
Hispanic	346,764	7.5	6.2	598,250	6.2	10.6	**5,624,449**	9.5
Other	...	...	...	311,994	3.2	14.8	**2,108,625**	3.6
Total	**4,619,555**	100.0	7.8	**9,683,277**	100.0	16.4	**59,192,863**	100.0

... Low precision; no estimate reported.

NOTE: Drug use includes any nonmedical use of marijuana or hashish, cocaine (including crack), inhalants, hallucinogens (including PCP), heroin, or psychotherapeutic drugs. Numbers and percentages may not sum to totals because of rounding. Past-year use includes use in the past month. Selected comparisons of drug use rates in this table have been subjected to statistical difference testing; the results of these tests are shown in the appendix.

SOURCE: NIDA, 1991 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse.

The distribution of reported drug users by marital status, as shown in Table II.B.5, differs substantially from that of women in the total population. Over one-half of the drug users have never married, compared to about one-third of the total population of women 15 to 44 years of age. Similarly, only about one-fourth of the past-month users are currently married, compared to over one-half of women in the total population. Age undoubtedly plays a role in the low proportion of currently married women among drug users, as drug users are generally younger than nonusers. Past-month and past-year drug users are more likely to be divorced or separated than are women in the total population. Focusing on prevalence, the rates of past-month and past-year drug use are highest among divorced or separated women, 13.0 percent and 22.4 percent respectively, and lowest among currently married women, 3.7 percent and 9.3 percent.

The employment status of drug users, shown in Table II.B.6, exhibits several differences from that of the total population of women 15 to 44 years of age. Women who report using drugs are disproportionately unemployed compared to the total population of women 15 to 44 years old: 7.2 percent of all women are unemployed, compared with 13.4 percent of past-month drug users and 12.1 percent of past-year users. About 37 percent of past-month drug users and 41 percent of past-year users are employed full-time, while 46 percent of the total population have full-time employment. The proportions of women employed part time or categorized as other-full-time homemakers, postsecondary school students, retired women, and disabled women-are similar for drug users and all women. The prevalence data in Table II.B.6 show a substantial difference between drug use rates across employment categories. For example, the past-year drug use rate for full-time workers is 14 percent, while the rate for unemployed women is 28 percent. As with marital status, the findings on employment status are likely to be influenced by the relatively younger ages of the drug users.

Table II.B.7 presents the distribution of women by educational level. It shows that a substantially higher proportion of the drug users (excluding those 15 to 17 years of age) did not complete high school than in the total population; less than 12 years of education is reported by 20 percent of past-month users and 19 percent of past-year users, compared with 14 percent of the total population. In addition, women in the total population are slightly more likely to have education beyond high school than are women in the drug-using groups. Consistent with these observations, the prevalence rates for past-month and past-year use are highest among women with 8 to 11 years of education. Similarly to marital and employment status, the relatively young ages of the drug users are likely to influence these findings.

Table II.B.5 - Distribution of women 15-44 years of age by marital status according to reported drug use pattern, and rate of drug use in marital status group: 1991

Marital status	Past-month use			Past-year use			Total women in category	
	Number	Percent distrib.	Rate	Number	Percent distrib.	Rate	Number	Percent distrib.
Currently married	1,177,990	25.5	3.7	2,923,715	30.2	9.3	31,548,712	53.3
Widowed		...	...		...	...	447,459	0.8
Divorced or separated	946,249	20.5	13.0	1,630,117	16.8	22.4	7,279,310	12.3
Never married	2,445,105	52.9	12.3	5,039,438	52.0	25.3	19,917,382	33.6
Total	4,619,555	100.0	7.8	9,683,277	100.0	16.4	59,192,863	100.0

... Low precision; no estimate reported.

NOTE: Drug use includes any nonmedical use of marijuana or hashish, cocaine (including crack), inhalants, hallucinogens (including PCP), heroin, or psychotherapeutic drugs. Numbers and percentages may not sum to totals because of rounding. Past-year use includes use in the past month.

SOURCE: NIDA, 1991 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse.

Table II.B.6 - Distribution of women 15-44 years of age by employment status according to reported drug use pattern, and rate of drug use in employment status groups: 1991

Employment status	Past-month use			Past-year use			Total women in category	
	Number	Percent distrib.	Rate	Number	Percent distrib.	Rate	Number	Percent distrib.
Employed full-time	1,768,434	38.3	6.3	3,941,316	40.7	14.4	27,455,043	46.4
Employed part-time	1,768,434	38.3	8.5	1,486,454	15.4	16.6	8,977,888	15.2
Unemployed	619,647	13.4	14.6	1,174,900	12.1	27.7	4,243,776	7.2
Other [1]	1,049,481	22.7	7.7	2,109,170	21.8	15.4	13,675,949	23.1
Age 15-17 years	469,516	10.2	9.7	971,436	10.0	20.1	4,840,206	8.2
Total	4,619,555	100.0	7.8	9,683,277	100.0	16.4	59,192,863	100.0

[1] Includes full-time homemakers, postsecondary school students, retired women, and disabled women.

NOTE: Drug use includes any nonmedical use of marijuana or hashish, cocaine (including crack), inhalants, hallucinogens (including PCP), heroin, or psychotherapeutic drugs. Numbers and percentages may not sum to totals because of rounding. Past-year use includes use in the past month.

SOURCE: NIDA, 1991 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse.

Table II.B.7 - Distribution of women 15-44 years of age by educational level according to reported drug use pattern, and rate of drug use **in educational level groups: 1991**

Educational level	Past-month use			Past-year use			Total women in category	
	Number	Percent distrib.	Rate	Number	Percent distrib.	Rate	Number	Percent distrib.
0-7 years	67,870	1.5	6.2	76,091	0.8	7.0	1,090,255	1.8
8-11 years	860,734	18.6	12.3	1,723,042	17.8	24.6	7,016,129	11.9
12years	1,547,085	33.5	7.8	3,013,112	31.1	15.1	19,938,341	33.7
More than 12 years	1,674,350	36.2	6.4	3,899,596	40.3	14.8	26,307,932	44.4
Age 15-17 years	469,516	10.2	9.7	971,436	10.0	20.1	4,840,206	8.2
Total	4,619,555	100.0	7.8	9,683,277	100.0	16.4	59,192,863	100.0

NOTE: Drug use includes any nonmedical use of marijuana or hashish, cocaine (including crack), inhalants, hallucinogens (including PCP), heroin, or psychotherapeutic drugs. Numbers and percentages may not sum to totals because of rounding. Past-year use includes use in the past month.

SOURCE: NIDA, 1991 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse.

Table II.B.8 - Distribution of women 15-44 years of age by population density of place of residence according to reported drug use pattern, and rate of drug use in population density groups: 1991

Population density	Past-month use			Past-year use			Total women in category	
	Number	Percent distrib.	Rate	Number	Percent distrib.	Rate	Number	Percent distrib.
Large metropolitan area[1]	1,978,557	42.8	7.6	4,332,883	44.7	16.7	25,869,444	43.7
Small metropolitan area [2]	1,619,910	35.1	8.2	3,268,204	33.8	16.6	19,650,796	33.2
Nonmetropolitan area	1,021,087	22.1	7.5	2,082,190	21.5	15.2	13,672,622	23.1
Total	4,619,555	100.0	7.8	9,683,277	100.0	16.4	59,192,863	100.0

[1] Population over 1,000,000.

[2] Population 50,000 to 1,000,000.

NOTE: Drug use includes any nonmedical use of marijuana or hashish, cocaine (including crack), inhalants, hallucinogens (including PCP), heroin, or psychotherapeutic drugs. Numbers and percentages may not sum to totals because of rounding. Past-year use includes use in the past month.

SOURCE: NIDA, 1991 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse.

Estimates according to population density, presented in Table II.B.8, reveal that illicit drug use is not concentrated in large cities; rather, it is similar in prevalence in metropolitan areas of 1 million persons or more, smaller metropolitan areas, and outside metropolitan areas. For all three categories of population density, the prevalence rates are approximately 8 percent for past-month use and 15 to 17 percent for past-year use. The distribution of drug users by population density is also proportionate to the distribution of the overall population. One factor that may influence this finding is the inclusion of nonmedical use of psychotherapeutic drugs in the overall category of illicit drug use.

Women who use drugs are less likely to have children than are women overall, as shown in Table II.B.9. In both groups of drug users, $5 percent of the women do not have children, compared with only 38 percent of the total population of women 15 to 44 years of age. Focusing on prevalence, the past-month and past-year drug-use rates are about twice as high for women with no children as they are for women with children. These differences, which are statistically signficant ($p<0.001$ for both past-month and past-year drug use), may be related to the relatively younger ages of the user groups. However, calculations based on data from the table show that, among the women with children, the proportions with children under 2 years of age are similar among the user groups and the total population: 2 1 percent of both user groups and 20 percent of the total population.

3. **Poverty Status and Income of Women Substance Abusers**

Overall, women in both the past-month and past-year user groups tend to be poorer than women in the total population. According to Table II.B.lO, nearly 19 percent of the total population of women 15 to 44 years of age live below the poverty level, compared with 28 percent of past-year users and 3 1 percent of past-month users. As with several of the demographic characteristics, the younger age of the drug users probably influences the poverty status: Younger people tend to have lower incomes and to be more likely to use drugs. Table II.B.10 also shows that among the women with income below the poverty level, those who use drugs are more likely to be in the poorest category (i.e., with income less than 50 percent of the poverty level).

Women in the total population are more likely to have a family income 300 to 499 percent of the poverty level than are past-year users, who are more likely to have that income than are past-month users. The finding that past-month users tend to be poorer than past-year users, who tend

Table ll.B.9 - Distribution of women 15-44 years of age by parentai status according to reported drug use pattern, and rate of drug use in parental status groups: 1991

Parental status	Past-month use			Past-year use			Total women in category	
	Number	Percent distrib.	Rate	Number	Percent distrib.	Rate	Number	Percent distrib.
Any children, regardless o age	2,025,924	43.8	5.7	4,233,706	43.8	11.8	35,855,432	60.6
At least one child under 2 years old	416,074	9.0	5.9	867,220	9.0	12.3	7,043,276	11.9
All children 2 years old or older	1,609,850	34.8	5.6	3,366,486	34.8	11.7	28,812,156	48.7
No children	2,554,788	55.3	11.2	5,325,468	55.0	23.4	22,714,435	38.4
Unknown	38,843	0.8	6.2	...	...	...	622,995	1.1
Total	4,619,555	100.0	7.8	9,683,277	100.0	16.4	59,192,863	100.0

... Low precision; no estimate reported.

NOTE: Drug use includes any nonmedical use of marijuana or hashish, cocaine (including crack), inhalants, hallucinogens (including PCP), heroin, or psychotherapeutic drugs. Numbers and percentages may not sum to totals because of rounding. Past-year use includes use in the past month. Selected comparisons of drug use rates in this table have been subjected to statistical difference testing; the results of these tests are shown in the appendix.

SOURCE: NIDA, 1991 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse.

Table II.B.10 - Distribution of women 15-44 years of age by poverty status and family income as a percentage of poverty level according to reported drug use pattern, and rate of drug use: 1991

Poverty status and family income (percent of poverty level)	Past-month use			Past-year use			Total women in category	
	Number	Percent distrib.	Rate	Number	Percent distrib.	Rate	Number	Percent distrib.
Below poverty line	1,435,833	31.2	12.9	2,647,363	27.5	23.8	11,102,986	18.8
O-49 percent	774,121	16.8	14.2	1,409,314	14.6	25.9	5447,767	9.2
50-99 percent	661,712	14.4	11.7	1,238,048	12.8	22.0	5,633,406	9.6
Above poverty line	3,159,439	68.8	6.6	6,989,145	72.5	14.6	47,874,447	81.2
100-299 percent	2,059,194	44.8	7.5	4,284,273	44.5	15.7	27,335,090	46.3
300-499 percent	640,703	13.9	4.6	1,817,248	18.9	13.1	13,894,416	23.6
500 percent and up	459,541	10.0	6.9	887,625	9.2	13.3	6,666,754	11.3
Total	4,595,272	100.0	7.8	9,636,508	100.0	16.3	58,977,433	100.0

NOTE: Drug use includes any nonmedical use of marijuana or hashish, cocaine (including crack), inhalants, hallucinogens (including PCP), heroin, or psychotherapeutic drugs. Numbers and percentages may not sum to totals because of rounding. Past-year use includes use in the past month. Selected comparisons of drug use rates in this table have been subjected to statistical difference testing; the results of these tests are shown in the appendix.

SOURCE: NIDA, 1991 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse.

to be poorer than the total population, holds true except for the women with family incomes 500 percent of the poverty level and higher; at that income level, there is a slightly higher percentage of past-month users than past-year users.

Finally, focusing on prevalence, women in the lowest income group, 0 to 49 percent of the poverty level, have the highest rates of self-reported illicit drug use, and women with incomes 300 to 499 percent of the poverty level have the lowest rates. Estimates for women above and below the poverty line have been compared statistically. Both past-year and past-month drug use are significantly more prevalent among women below the poverty line than among those above the poverty line ($p<0.001$ for each level of recency of use).

C. Parental Substance Abuse and Children at Risk

This section discusses substance abuse among parents and provides estimates of the number of children at risk because of their parents' drug use. Most of the estimates are based on parents who are 15 years of age and older and who live with their own biological children under 18 years old or their stepchildren or adopted children. As shown in table II.C. 1, approximately one-
/A third of persons 15 years of age or older have children living with them in accordance with this definition. This figure is somewhat higher for women (35 percent) than for men (30 percent).

Subsection 1 presents information on the proportion of parents who are substance abusers, the proportion of substance abusers who are parents, the numbers of parents involved, and the types of substances that are most frequently abused. Subsection 2 presents drug use patterns according to demographic group and other factors, and Subsection 3 provides estimates of the number of children potentially at risk because of parental drug use.

1. Overall Patterns of Parental Drug Use

Population estimates shown in Table II.C. 1 reveal that approximately 7.2 million parents (3.8 million mothers and 3.4 million fathers) are past-year illicit drug users. These figures are based on persons 15 years of age and older who (1) have biological children under 18 years old or stepchildren or adopted children of any age and (2) live with their children. For this group, the prevalence rates for past-year drug use are 10.7 percent for mothers, 12.2 percent for fathers, and 11.3 percent for all parents.

Table II.C.I - Distribution of persons 15 years of age and older by parental status according to drug use pattern, and rate of drug use by parental status: 1991

Parental status	Past-month use			Past-year use			Total persons in category	
	Number	Percent distrib.	Rate	Number	Percent distrib.	Rate	Number	Percent distrib.
Females								
Children in home	1,804,046	34.2	5.1	3,809,906	34.3	10.7	35,655,842	35.4
No children or no children in home	3,337,795	63.3	5.3	7,077,311	63.8	11.2	63,183,119	62.8
Unknown	133,789	2.5	7.5	211,042	1.9	11.8	1,780,997	1.8
Total	5,275,629	100.0	5.2	11,098,258	100.0	11.0	100,619,957	100.0
Males								
Children in home	1,588,250	22.0	5.7	3,399,779	24.5	12.2	27,972,406	30.3
No children or no children in home	5,494,336	76.0	8.7	10,257,497	73.8	16.3	62,950,631	68.2
Unknown	147,450	2.0	11.0	244,475	1.8	18.3	1,335,842	1.4
Total	7,230,037	100.0	7.8	13,901,751	100.0	15.1	92,258,879	100.0
Both sexes								
Children in home	3,392,296	27.1	5.3	7,209,685	28.8	11.3	63,628,248	33.0
No children or no children in home	8,832,131	70.6	7.0	17,334,807	69.3	13.7	126,133,750	65.4
Unknown	281,239	2.2	9.0	455,517	1.8	14.6	3,116,838	1.6
Total	12,505,666	100.0	6.5	25,000,010	100.0	13.0	192,878,836	100.0

NOTE: Drug use includes any nonmedical use of marijuana or hashish, cocaine (including crack), inhalants, hallucinogens (including PCP), heroin, or psychotherapeutic drugs. Numbers and percentages may not sum to totals because of rounding. Past-year use includes use in the past month. Persons are included if they are 15 years of age or older. They are counted as parents if they have their own biological children under age 18 living with them or any stepchildren or adopted children living with them.

SOURCE: NIDA, 1991 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse.

Patterns were similar for past-month illicit drug use. Among parents living with their children, the prevalence rates for past-month drug use are 5.1 percent for mothers, 5.7 percent for fathers, and 5.3 percent for all parents. Population projections show that approximately 3.4 million parents (1.8 million mothers and 1.6 million fathers) are past-month drug users.

Considering the percent distributions in Table II.C.1, 27 percent of past-month illicit drug users 15 years of age and older-34 percent of females and 22 percent of males-have children and live with them.

Table II.C.2 focuses on all parents who have biological children under 18 years old and examines drug use according to whether their children live with them. The table excludes persons whose only children are stepchildren or adopted children. Overall, approximately 80 percent of these parents have all their children under 18 years old living in the household with them, and another 4.7 percent have some but not all of their children living with them. Fourteen percent of parents of children under 18 years old have none of their children living with them.

Illicit drug users are more likely than parents overall to live apart from their biological children. Overall, 27 percent of past-month drug users, compared to 14 percent of all parents, have none of their biological children under 18 years of age living with them. For mothers, 12.7 percent of past-month drug users, compared to 7.8 percent of all mothers, do not have their children living with them.

Examined in terms prevalence rates, the data in Table II.C.2 show that past-month use of illicit drugs was reported by 5.2 percent of parents who have all their children under 18 years old living with them, compared to 13.1 percent of those who have none of their children under 18 years old living with them.

Tables II.C.3 through II.C.10 are based on parents who have children living with them. This includes the parents' biological children under 18 years old and any stepchildren or adopted children they may have, regardless of age.

Table II.C.3 presents prevalence rates for parents' use of alcohol and specific drugs; this is the only table in Section C that considers alcohol use. An estimated 21 percent of parents used alcohol weekly or almost weekly for the past year. This rate is 13 percent for mothers and 31 percent for fathers. Daily or almost daily use of alcohol over the past year is reported by 4 percent

Table II.C.2 - Distribution of parents with biological children under 18 years of age by whether children live in their household according to parents drug use pattern, and rate of drug use: 1991

Sex of parent and whether children live with parent	Past-month use			Past-year use			Total parents in category	
	Number	Percent distrib.	Rate	Number	Percent distrib.	Rate	Number	Percent distrib.
Mothers								
All children under 18 living in household	1,641,203	78.6	5.0	3,507,809	82.3	10.6	33,089,056	86.9
None of children under 18 living in household	265,125	12.7	8.9	458,120	10.8	15.4	2,967,293	7.8
Some of children under 18 living in household	108,854	5.2	8.5	209,156	4.9	16.3	1,282,049	3.4
Unknown	...	...	...	...	...	...	742,600	2.0
Total	2,088,695	100.0	5.5	4,260,888	100.0	11.2	38,080,998	100.0
Fathers								
All children under 18 living in household	1,282,280	49.6	5.6	2,739,516	53.7	11.9	22,981,131	71.4
None of children under 18 living in household	992,366	38.4	14.9	1,870,811	36.7	28.1	6,662,007	20.7
Some of children under 18 living in household	243,402	9.4	12.2	392,030	7.7	19.7	1,993,379	6.2
Unknown	68,565	2.7	12.7	...	...	...	538,079	1.7
Total	2,586,613	100.0	8.0	5,101,487	100.0	15.9	32,174,595	100.0
All parents								
All children under 18 living in household	2,923,483	62.5	5.2	6,247,325	68.7	11.1	56,070,187	79.8
None of children under 18 living in household	1,257,491	26.9	13.1	2,328,931	24.9	24.2	9,629,300	13.7
Some of children under 18 living in household	352,255	7.5	10.8	601,185	6.4	18.4	3,275,428	4.7
Unknown	142,079	3.0	11.1	184,934	2.0	14.4	1,280,678	1.8
Total	4,675,309	100.0	6.7	9,362,375	100.0	13.3	70,255,593	100.0

... Low precision; no estimate reported.

NOTE: Drug use includes any nonmedical use of marijuana or hashish, cocaine (including crack), inhalants, hallucinogens (including PCP), heroin, or psychotherapeutic drugs. Numbers and percentages may not sum to totals because of rounding. Past-year use includes use in the past month. Persons are included in this table if they are 15 years of age or older and have any biological children under 18 years of age. The table excludes persons only having stepchildren or adopted children and persons whose children are all 18 years of age or older.

SOURCE: NIDA, 1991 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse.

Table II.C.3 - Prevalence of drug and alcohol use by parents according to sex and pattern of use: 1991

Substance and pattern of use	Mothers		Fathers		All parents	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Alcohol						
Weekly or almost weekly for past year	4522,634	12.7	8,524,823	30.5	13,047,457	20.5
Daily or almost daily for past year	1,371,515	3.8	3,875,465	13.9	5,246,980	8.2
Five or more drinks one or more times in past month	2,945,829	8.3	6,914,180	24.7	9,860,009	15.5
Five or more drinks three or more times in past month	1,440,943	4.0	3,739,628	13.4	5,180,572	8.1
Marijuana						
Past year	2,663,960	7.5	2,688,163	9.6	5,352,122	8.4
Past month	1,274,327	3.6	1,324,467	4.7	2,598,794	4.1
Weekly for past year	606,639	1.7	750,498	2.7	1,357,137	2.1
Daily or almost daily for past year	379,244	1.1	498,709	1.8	877,953	1.4
Cocaine						
Past year	746,943	2.1	1,079,235	3.9	1,826,178	2.9
Past month	263,677	0.7	361,113	1.3	624,790	1.0
Weekly for past year	110,666	0.3	58,356	0.2	169,023	0.3
Psychotherapeutic drugs (non-medical use)						
Past year	1,509,049	4.2	1,117,026	4.0	2,626,075	4.1
Past month	529,920	1.5	457,337	1.6	987,257	1.6
Any illicit drug use						
Past year	3,809,906	10.7	3,399,779	12.2	7,209,685	11.3
Past month	1,804,046	5.1	1588,250	5.7	3,392,296	5.3
Total population	35,655,842	100.0	27,972,406	100.0	63,628,248	100.0

NOTE: The category of illicit drug use includes nonmedical use of marijuana or hashish, cocaine (including crack), inhalants, hallucinogens (including PCP), heroin, or psychotherapeutic drugs. Numbers and percentages may not sum to totals because of rounding. Past-year use includes use in the past month. Persons are counted as parents if they are 15 years of age or older and have their own biological children under age 18 living with them or any stepchildren or adopted children living with them.

SOURCE: NIDA, 1991 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse.

of mothers and 14 percent of fathers. Binge drinking--consumption of five or more drinks at one time-at least three times a month is reported by 4.0 percent of mothers and 13.4 percent of fathers.

The most common illicit drug used is marijuana. Use of marijuana in the past year is reported by 7.5 percent of mothers and 9.6 percent of fathers; a total of approximately 5.3 million parents report using marijuana in the past year. Past-month marijuana use is reported by 3.6 percent of mothers and 4.7 percent of fathers. Weekly use of marijuana over the past year is reported by 1.7 percent of mothers and 2.7 percent of fathers, and daily or almost daily use of this drug is reported by 1.4 percent of parents overall.

Use of cocaine in the past year is reported by 2.1 percent of mothers and 3.9 percent of fathers; a total of 1.8 million parents report use of this drug at some time in the past year. Cocaine use in the past month is reported by 1.0 percent of parents. Weekly cocaine use over the past year is reported by approximately 111,000 mothers (0.3 percent) and 58,000 fathers (0.2 percent).

Four percent of both mothers and fathers used psychotherapeutic drugs without medical direction in the past year. Psychotherapeutic drugs include analgesics, sedatives, tranquilizers, and stimulants that require a prescription. For both mothers and fathers, past-month rates of nonmedical use of psychotherapeutic drugs are approximately 1.5 percent.

Overall, past-year illicit drug use-including use of marijuana, cocaine, or hallucinogens and nonmedical use of psychotherapeutic drugs—is reported by 11 percent of mothers and 12 percent of fathers.

2. Parental Drug Use According to Demographic Group and Other Factors

Table II.C.4 examines parental drug use according to age. Prevalence rates for drug use generally are higher for younger parents, except for those 15 to 17 years old. The highest rates of illicit drug use are for parents 20 to 25 years old. In this age group, 12 percent of all parents (11 percent of mothers and 14 percent of fathers) report illicit drug use in the past month, and 24 percent (23 percent of mothers and 27 percent of fathers) reported past-year use.

Looking at the data from the perspective of age distributions, parents who have used drugs, whether in the past year or the past month, are younger than parents overall. For example, 53

Table ll.C.4 - Distribution of parents by age according to drug use pattern, and rate of drug use by age: 1991

Age	Past-month use			Past-year use			Total parents in category	
	Number	Percent distrib.	Rate	Number	Percent distrib.	Rate	Number	Percent distrib.
Mothers								
15-19 years	57,057	3.2	9.4	124,297	3.3	20.4	608,602	1.7
20-25 years	453,846	25.2	11.4	922,882	24.2	23.1	3,992,023	11.2
26-30 years	434,476	24.1	6.4	871,919	22.9	12.8	6,800,826	19.1
31-35 years	386,058	21.4	4.4	907,646	23.8	10.3	8,834,855	24.8
36-40 years	332,327	18.4	4.4	656,637	17.2	8.7	7,537,018	21.1
Over 40 years	140,282	7.8	1.8	326,525	8.6	4.1	7,882,517	22.1
Total, 15 years and older	1,804,046	100.0	5.1	3,809,906	100.0	10.7	35,655,842	100.0
Fathers								
15-19 years	...	...	...	..	...	...	85,091	0.3
20-25 years	223,394	14.1	14.3	418,261.	12.3	26.8	1,558,265	5.6
26-30 years	304,043	19.1	8.0	595,278	17.5	15.6	3,804,276	13.6
31-35 years	418,468	26.3	6.7	1,079,550	31.8	17.4	6,208,587	22.2
36-40 years	...	...	...	883,619	26.0	14.6	6,064,844	21.7
Over 40 years	153,729	9.7	1.5	408,512	12.0	4.0	10,251,342	36.6
Total, 15 years and older	1,588,250	100.0	5.7	3,399,779	100.0	12.2	27,972,406	100.0
All parents								
15-19 years	59,412	1.8	8.6	138,857	1.9	20.0	693,693	1.1
20-25 years	677,240	20.0	12.2	1,341,142	18.6	24.2	5,550,288	8.7
26-30 years	738,519	21.8	7.0	1,467,197	20.4	13.8	10,605,103	16.7
31-35 years	804,526	23.7	5.3	1,987,196	27.6	13.2	15,043,442	23.6
36-40 years	818,588	24.1	6.0	1,540,256	21.4	11.3	13,601,863	21.4
Over 40 years	294,011	8.7	1.6	735,037	10.2	4.1	18,133,859	28.5
Total, 15 years and older	3,392,296	100.0	5.3	7,209,685	100.0	11.3	63,628,248	100.0

... Low precision; no estimate reported.

NOTE: Drug use includes any nonmedical use of marijuana or hashish, cocaine (including crack), inhalants, hallucinogens (including PCP), heroin, or psychotherapeutic drugs. Numbers and percentages may not sum to totals because of rounding. Past-year use includes use in the past month. Persons are counted as parents if they are 15 years of age or older and have their own biological children under age 18 living with them or any stepchildren or adopted children living with them.

SOURCE: NIDA, 1991 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse.

percent of mothers who used drugs in the past month are 30 years of age or younger, compared to 32 percent of mothers overall.

Parents' drug use patterns according to race/ethnic&y are shown in Table II.C.5. The rates of past-month drug use are 4.6 percent for white non-Hispanic parents, 9.5 percent for black non-Hispanic parents, and 5.2 percent for Hispanic parents. For black and white parents, the rates for mothers and fathers are similar, although fathers' rates are consistently somewhat higher than mothers'. For Hispanics, past-month drug use is reported by 3.4 percent of mothers versus 7.6 percent of fathers. Similar patterns are found for past-year drug use. Statistical testing of the race/ethnic&y differentials in prevalence estimates for all parents shows that black non-Hispanic parents are more likely than white non-Hispanic parents or Hispanic parents to have used drugs either in the past month or the past year ($p<0.001$ in each case). See Appendix 1 for further information on the results of statistical tests involving the prevalence rates in this table. Also see Appendix 2 for 1992 analyses which found a different pattern in prevalence rates.

Viewing the data in Table II.C.5 from the perspective of percent distributions by race/ethnicity, 64 percent of past-month drug-using parents are white non-Hispanic, 21 percent are black non-Hispanic, and 10 percent are Hispanic. Comparable proportions among all parents—including those who have and have not used illicit drugs-are 74 percent for white non-Hispanic, 12 percent for black non-Hispanic, and 10 percent for Hispanic. The race/ethnicity distribution of past-year drug users, however, is closer to the overall distribution than is the distribution for past-month drug users. For example, 71 percent of past-year drug users are white non-Hispanic, 17 percent are black non-Hispanic, and 9 percent are Hispanic.

Table II.C.6 presents data on parental drug use according to marital status. Combining the data for mothers and fathers, the prevalence rate for past-month illicit drug use is 4.0 percent for parents who are currently married, 13.2 percent for those who have never married, and 10.8 percent for those who are divorced or separated. It should be noted that age may be a factor in these findings, as persons who have never married generally are younger than those who are married, divorced, or separated, and younger persons tend to have higher rates of drug use.

While drug use rates generally are higher for fathers than for mothers, the reverse is true among parents who are divorced or separated. In these latter groups, 11.5 percent of mothers, compared with 8.2 percent of fathers, report past-month drug use.

Table ll.C.5 - Distribution of parents by race/ethnicity according to drug use pattern, and rate of drug use by race/ethnicity: 1991

Race/ ethnicity	Past-month use			Past-year use			Total parents in category	
	Number	Percent distrib.	Rate	Number	Percent distrib.	Rate	Number	Percent distrib.
Mothers								
White non-Hispanic	1,118,456	62.0	4.4	2,656,999	69.7	10.4	25,632,970	71.9
Black non-Hispanic	439,088	24.3	8.9	746,441	19.6	15.1	4,927,379	13.8
Hispanic	126,875	7.0	3.4	232,260	6.1	6.2	3,738,951	10.5
Other	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,356,540	3.8
Total	1,804,046	100.0	5.1	3,809,906	100.0	10.7	35,655,842	100.0
Fathers								
White non-Hispanic	1,057,765	66.6	4.9	2,484,233	73.1	11.6	21,385,577	76.5
Black non-Hispanic	286,344	18.0	10.5	471,882	13.9	17.3	2,720,092	9.7
Hispanic	216,100	13.6	7.6	415,623	12.2	14.6	2,837,899	10.1
Other	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,028,837	3.7
Total	1,588,250	100.0	5.7	3,399,779	100.0	12.2	27,972,406	100.0
All parents								
White non-Hispanic	2,176,221	64.2	4.6	5,141,232	71.3	10.9	47,018,548	73.9
Black non-Hispanic	725,432	21.4	9.5	1,218,322	16.9	15.9	7,647,472	12.0
Hispanic	342,975	10.1	5.2	647,883	9.0	9.9	6,576,850	10.3
Other	...	...	...	202,248	2.8	8.5	2,385,378	3.7
Total	3,392,296	100.0	5.3	7,209,685	100.0	11.3	63,628,248	100.0

... Low precision; no estimate reported.

NOTE: Drug use includes any nonmedical use of marijuana or hashish, cocaine (including crack), inhalants, hallucinogens (including PCP), heroin, or psychotherapeutic drugs. Numbers and percentages may not sum to totals because of rounding. Past-year use includes use in the past month. Persons are counted as parents if they are 15 years of age or older and have their own biological children under age 18 living with them or any stepchildren or adopted children living with them. Selected comparisons of drug use rates in this table have been subjected to statistical difference testing; the results of these tests are shown in the appendix.

SOURCE: NIDA, 1991 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse.

Table II.C.6 - Distribution of parents by marital status according to drug use pattern, and rate of drug use by marital status: 1991

Marital status	Past-month use			Past-year use			Total parents in category	
	Number	Percent distrib.	Rate	Number	Percent distrib.	Rate	Number	Percent distrib.
Mothers								
Currently married	748,431	41.5	2.8	1,980,437	52.0	7.4	26,685,253	74.8
Widowed	...	...	...	...		...	517,827	1.5
Divorced or separated	609,118	33.8	11.5	994,030	26.1	18.8	5,295,438	14.9
Never married	399,924	22.2	12.7	749,071	19.7	23.7	3,157,324	8.9
Total	1,804,046	100.0	5.1	3,809,906	100.0	10.7	35,655,842	100.0
Fathers								
Currently married	1,366,821	86.1	5.3	2,963,792	87.2	11.4	25,923,740	92.7
Widowed	...	...	...	...	...	...	64,449	0.2
Divorced or separated	113,074	7.1	8.2	211,794	6.2	15.3	1,384,321	4.9
Never married	96,730	6.1	16.1	212,364	6.2	35.4	599,896	2.1
Total	1588,250	100.0	5.7	3,399,779	100.0	12.2	27,972,406	100.0
All parents								
Currently married	2,115,253	62.4	4.0	4,944,229	68.6	9.4	52,608,993	82.7
Widowed	...	...	...	...	...	...	582,276	0.9
Divorced or separated	722,193	21.3	10.8	1,205,824	16.7	18.1	6,679,760	10.5
Never married	496,654	14.6	13.2	961,435	13.3	25.6	3,757,220	5.9
Total	3,392,296	100.0	5.3	7,209,685	100.0	11.3	63,628,248	100.0

... Low precision; no estimate reported.

NOTE: Drug use includes any nonmedical use of marijuana or hashish, cocaine (including crack), inhalants, hallucinogens (including **PCP),** heroin, or psychotherapeutic drugs. Numbers and percentages may not sum to totals because of rounding. Past-year use includes use in the past month. Persons are counted as parents if they are 15 years of age or older and have their own biological children under age 18 living with them or any stepchildren or adopted children living with them.

SOURCE: NIDA, 1991 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse.

Considered from the perspective of marital status distributions, some interesting patterns emerge; many of these, however, may be related to age. Overall, 83 percent of all parents are currently married, 11 percent are divorced or separated, and 6 percent have never married. The distributions for past-month and past-year drug users show higher proportions in both the never-married and the divorced/separated categories than among the total population of parents. For past-month drug users, for example, 21 percent are divorced or separated, and 15 percent have never married; 62 percent are currently married.

Parents' drug use patterns according to employment status are presented in Table II.C.7. The prevalence of drug use among unemployed parents is particularly high, with 17 percent reporting past-month drug use and 27 percent reporting past-year drug use. Among those who are employed full time, the rates are 4.6 percent and 10.3 percent, respectively, for past-month and past-year illicit drug use. Estimates for parents 15 to 18 years old are separated from those for other parents because these parents are less likely to be in the workforce. Nevertheless, age may play a factor in these findings, as in findings regarding marital status.

Considered from the perspective of the distribution of parents by employment status, Table II.C.7 shows higher proportions of unemployed persons among parents who use drugs compared to their proportions among all parents. For example, for mothers and fathers combined, the proportion of unemployed is 6.8 percent for all parents, 21 percent for past-month drug users, and 16 percent for past-year drug users.

Table II.C.8 provides information on parents' drug use patterns according to educational level. As with employment status, these tabulations have a special category for parents 15 to 17 years old because their age restricts the number of years of education they can have attained. Generally, prevalence rates for drug use are higher among persons with 8 to 11 years of formal education than for persons with fewer than 8 or more than 11 years of education. For all parents—mothers and fathers together-past-month drug use is reported by 9.8 percent of those with 8 to 11 years of education, compared to 2.9 percent of those with fewer than 8 years of education, 5.9 percent of those who graduated from high school but have no college experience, and 3.5 percent of those who have attended at least some college.

Examining the distribution of parents by educational level, it appears that drug users are less likely than the overall population of parents to have attended college. For example, 45 percent of all parents have attended at least some college, compared to 30 percent of parents who used drugs in the past month.

Table II.C.7 - Distribution of parents by employment status according to drug use pattern, and rate of drug use by employment status: 1991

Employment status	Past-month use			Past-year use			Total parents in category	
	Number	Percent distrib.	Rate	Number	Percent distrib.	Rate	Number	Percent distrib.
Mothers								
Employed full time	684,482	37.9	4.2	1,619,305	42.5	9.9	16,367,222	45.9
Employed part time	254,793	14.1	4.3	478,830	12.6	8.1	5,879,593	16.5
Unemployed	374,613	20.8	15.0	634,660	16.7	25.3	2,503,697	7.0
Other	477,020	26.4	4.5	1,028,716	27.0	9.6	10,707,394	30.0
Age 15-17 years	13,137	0.7	6.6	...	...	...	197,935	0.6
Total	1,804,046	100.0	5.1	3,809,906	100.0	10.7	35,655,842	100.0
Fathers								
Employed full time	...	...	...	2,521,034	74.2	10.6	23,777,456	85.0
Employed part time	64,819	4.1	7.1	126,475	3.7	13.8	916,436	3.3
Unemployed	...	...	...	523,156	15.4	28.2	1,853,515	6.6
Other[1]	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,391,210	5.0
Age 15-17 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	33,789	0.1
Total	1,588,250	100.0	5.7	3,399,779	100.0	12.2	27,972,406	100.0
All parents								
Employed full time	1,846,803	54.4	4.6	4,140,339	57.4	10.3	40,144,679	63.1
Employed part time	319,612	9.4	4.7	605,305	8.4	8.9	6,796,030	10.7
Unemployed	719,488	21.2	16.5	1,157,815	16.1	26.6	4,357,212	6.8
Other	492,331	14.5	4.1	1,245,541	17.3	10.3	12,098,603	19.0
Age 15-17 years	14,062	0.4	6.1	60,685	0.8	26.2	231,725	0.4
Total	3,392,296	100.0	5.3	7,209,685	100.0	11.3	63,628,248	100.0

... Low precision; no estimate reported.

[1] Includes full-time homemakers, postsecondary school students, retired persons, and disabled persons.

NOTE: Drug use includes any nonmedical use of marijuana or hashish, cocaine (including crack), inhalants, hallucinogens (including PCP), heroin, or psychotherapeutic drugs. Numbers and percentages may not sum to totals because of rounding. Past-year use includes use in the past month. Persons are counted as parents if they are 15 years of age or older and have their own biological children under age 18 living with them or any stepchildren or adopted children living with them.

SOURCE: NIDA, 1991 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse.

Table II.C.8 - Distribution of parents by educational level according to drug use pattern, and rate of drug use by educational level: 1991

Educational level	Past-month use			Past-year use			Total parents in category	
	Number	Percent distrib.	Rate	Number	Percent distrib.	Rate	Number	Percent distrib.
Mothers								
O-7 years	46,780	2.6	4.2	54,462	1.4	4.9	1,102,302	3 . 1
8-l 1 years	52 1,353	28.9	10.2	1,089,967	28.6	21.3	5,110,675	14.3
12 years	604,587	33.5	4.4	1,164,046	30.6	8.6	13,606,311	38.2
More than 12 years	618,188	34.3	4.0	1,453,035	38.1	9.3	15,638,619	43.9
Age 15-17 years	13,137	0.7	6.6	...	...	...	197,935	0.6
Total	1,804,046	100.0	5.1	3,809,906	100.0	10.7	35,655,842	100.0
Fathers								
O-7 years	...	...	...	28,229	0.8	3.0	927,249	3.3
8-11 years	...	...	...	766,824	22.6	18.6	4,128,677	14.8
12 years	...	...	...	1,454,860	42.8	14.4	10,075,639	36.0
More than 12 years	...	...	...	1,137,576	33.5	8.9	12,807,052	45.8
Age 15-17 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	33,789	0.1
Total	1,588,250	100.0	5.7	3,399,779	100.0	12.2	27,972,406	100.0
All parents								
O-7 years	59,755	1.8	2.9	82,691	1.1	4.1	2,029,551	3 . 2
8-11 years	905,034	26.7	9.8	1,856,792	25.8	20.1	9,239,351	14.5
12 years	1,406,816	41.5	5.9	2,618,906	36.3	11.1	23,681,949	37.2
More than 12 years	1,006,628	29.7	3.5	2,590,612	35.9	9.1	28445,671	44.7
Age 15-l 7 years	14,062	0.4	6.1	60,685	0.8	26.2	231,725	0.4
Total	3,392,296	100.0	5.3	7,209,685	100.0.	11.3	63,628,248	100.0

... Low precision; no estimate reported.

NOTE: Drug use includes any nonmedical use of marijuana or hashish, cocaine (including crack), inhalants, hallucinogens (including PCP), heroin, or psychotherapeutic drugs. Numbers and percentages may not sum to totals because of rounding. Past-year use includes use in the past month. Persons are counted as parents if they are 15 years of age or older and have their own biological children under age 18 living with them or any stepchildren or adopted children living with them.

SOURCE: NIDA, 1991 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse.

Table II.C.9 presents data on parental drug use patterns according to the population density of the parents' place of residence. Prevalence rates for illicit drug use vary little across the categories of population density. Past-month illicit drug use rates, for example, range from only 4.7 percent for nonmetropolitan areas to 6.0 percent for small metropolitan areas (i.e., those with populations under 1 million). Patterns according to population density are similar for past-year drug use.

Table II.C. 10 presents information on the family income and poverty status of parents according to drug use pattern. For all parents, drug use rates for those below the poverty line are approximately double those for parents at or above the poverty line: 9.5 percent versus 4.6 percent for past-month use and 18.9 percent versus 10.1 percent for past-year use. Statistical testing of these difference reveals that they are significant ($p<0.01$ and $p<0.001$, respectively, for past-month and past-year drug use). For mothers, the difference between past-year drug use prevalence rates, 15.7 below the poverty line versus 9.6 percent above the poverty line, is significant ($p<0.01$). As with employment, marital status, and certain other variables in the NHSDA data set, this association between income and drug use is confounded by the factor of age, as drug use rates are higher for younger persons than for older persons, and younger persons tend to have lower incomes than older persons.

Distributions of parents by family income and poverty status tell the same story. Drug-using parents are more likely than the overall population of parents to have incomes below the poverty level; incomes below the poverty level are reported by 26 percent of past-month drug users and 24 percent of past-year drug users, compared with 14 percent of all parents. Nevertheless, the highest income category, 500 percent of poverty level and above, is reported by 10.5 percent of past-month drug users and 11.2 percent of the overall population of parents.

3. **Children at Risk Because of Parental Drug Use**

As outlined in Section II.A, estimates of children at risk because of parental drug use are somewhat difficult to obtain from the NHSDA data. While it is rare in the NHSDA, there are cases in which both parents are interviewed. However, approximations of the numbers of children potentially affected have been developed and are shown in Tables II.C. 11 and II.C. 12; the estimation method is outlined in Chapter I. It should be noted that these estimates may be somewhat high because of assumptions that were made regarding the rate of drug use among fathers in households where the mother is not a drug user. No disaggregations by the sex of the substance-abusing parent are provided in Tables II.C. 11 and II.C. 12.

Table II.C.9 - Distribution of parents by population density of place of residence according to drug use pattern, and rate of drug use by population density: 1991

Population density	Past-month use			Past-year use			Total parents in category	
	Number	Percent distrib.	Rate	Number	Percent distrib.	Rate	Number	Percent distrib.
Mothers								
Large metropolitan area [1]	652,837	36.2	4.3	1,508,415	39.6	10.0	15,086,896	42.3
Small metropolitan area [2]	...	...	...	1,320,826	34.7	11.1	11,933,898	33.5
Nonmetropolitan area	468,351	26.0	5.4	980,665	25.7	11.4	8,635,049	24.2
Total	1,804,046	100.0	5.1	3,809,906	100.0	10.7	35,655,842	100.0
Fathers								
Large metropolitan area [1]	...	...	...	1,383,568	40.7	12.3	11,222,415	40.1
Small metropolitan area [2]	...	...	...	1,091,459	32.1	11.7	9,332,674	33.4
Nonmetropolitan area	...	...	...	924,753	27.2	12.5	7,417,317	26.5
Total	1,588,250	100.0	5.7	3,399,779	100.0	12.2	27,972,406	100.0
All parents								
Large metropolitan area [1]	1,370,735	40.4	5.2	2,891,982	40.1	11.0	26,309,311	41.3
Small metropolitan area [2]	1,267,283	37.4	6.0	2,412,285	33.5	11.3	21,266,572	33.4
Nonmetropolitan area	754,277	22.2	4.7	1,905,418	26.4	11.9	16,052,365	25.2
Total	3,392,296	100.0	5.3	7,209,685	100.0	11.3	63,628,248	100.0

... Low precision; no estimate reported.

[1] Population over 1,000,000.

[2] Population 50,000 to 1,000,000.

NOTE: Drug use includes any nonmedical use of marijuana or hashish, cocaine (including crack), inhalants, hallucinogens (including PCP), heroin, or psychotherapeutic drugs. Numbers and percentages may not sum to totals because of rounding. Past-year use includes use in the past month. Persons are counted as parents if they are 15 years of age or older and have their own biological children under age 18 living with them or any stepchildren or adopted children living with them.

SOURCE: NIDA, 1991 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse.

Table II.C.10 - Distribution of parents by poverty status and family income as percentage of poverty level according to drug use pattern, and rate of drug use: 1991

Poverty status and family income (percent of poverty level)	Past-month use			Past-year use			Total parents in category	
	Number	Percent distrib.	Rate	Number	Percent distrib.	Rate	Number	Percent distrib.
Mothers								
Below poverty line	443,526	24.6	7.0	996,125	26.1	15.7	6,349,652	17.8
O-49 percent	161,439	8.9	6.6	368,250	9.7	15.0	2,452,253	6.9
50-99 percent	282,086	15.6	7.2	627,875	16.5	16.1	3,890,855	10.9
Above poverty line	1,360,520	75.4	4.6	2,813,781	73.9	9.6	29,306,190	82.2
100-299 percent	932,398	51.7	5.2	1,970,409	51.7	10.9	18,006,913	50.5
300-499 percent	222,869	12.4	2.9	546,334	14.3	7.0	7,790,268	21.8
500 percent and up	205,252	11.4	5.8	297,038	7.8	8.4	3,515,552	9.9
Total	1,804,046	100.0	5.1	3,809,906	100.0	10.7	35,655,842	100.0
Fathers								
Below poverty line	...	...	...	732,350	21.5	26.2	2,790,250	10.0
O-49 percent	52,831	3.3	5.8		...	...	909,557	3.3
50-99 percent	...	...	...	537,395	15.8	28.9	1,858,975	6.6
Above poverty line	...	...	...	2,667,430	78.5	10.6	25,182,157	90.0
100-299 percent	657,541	41.4	5.3	1,664,444	49.0	13.3	12,495,945	44.7
300-499 percent	352,436	22.2	3.9	693,322	20.4	7.6	9,104,878	32.5
500 percent and up	...	...	...	309,663	9.1	8.6	3,603,050	12.9
Total	1,588,250	100.0	5.7	3,399,779	100.0	12.2	27,972,406	100.0
All parents								
Below poverty line	871,305	25.7	9.5	1,728,475	24.0	18.9	9,139,902	14.4
O-49 percent	214,270	6.3	6.4	563,205	7.8	16.8	3,361,811	5.3
50-99 percent	657,035	19.4	11.4	1,165,270	16.2	20.3	5,749,830	9.0
Above poverty line	2,520,990	74.3	4.6	5,481,211	76.0	10.1	54,488,346	85.6
100-299 percent	1,589,940	46.9	5.2	3,634,853	50.4	11.9	30,502,858	47.9
300-499 percent	575,305	17.0	3.4	1,239,657	17.2	7.3	16,895,147	26.6
500 percent and up	355,745	10.5	5.0	606,701	8.4	8.5	7,118,602	11.2
Total	3,392,296	100.0	5.3	7,209,685	100.0	11.3	63,628,248	100.0

... Low precision; no estimate reported.

NOTE: Drug use includes any nonmedical use of marijuana or hashish, cocaine (including crack), inhalants, hallucinogens (including PCP), heroin, or psychotherapeutic drugs. Numbers and percentages may not sum to totals because of rounding. Past-year use includes use in the past month. Persons are counted as parents if they are 15 years of age or older and have their own biological children under age 18 living with them or any stepchildren or adopted children living with them. Selected comparisons of drug use rates in this table have been subjected to statistical difference testing; the results of these tests are shown in the appendix.

SOURCE: NIDA, 1991 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse.

Table II.C.11 - Number of children according to parents' drug use pattern and type of children, and percent relative to all children in the category: 1991

Type of children	Children of past-month drug users		Children of past-year drug users		Total children
	Number	Rate[1]	Number	Rate[1]	
Children in household: biological children under 18 years of age, stepchildren or adopted children	6,244,197	9.0	12,883,749	18.6	69,436,254
Total biological children under 18 years of age, whether or not in household	6,298,897	9.2	12,880,829	18.8	68,507,926

[1] Percent of all children.

NOTE: Drug use includes any nonmedical use of marijuana or hashish, cocaine (including crack), inhalants, hallucinogens (including PCP), heroin, or psychotherapeutic drugs. Numbers and percentages may not sum to totals because of rounding. Past-year use includes use in the past month. See Chapter I for information on special methods used to generate this table.

SOURCE: NIDA, 1991 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse.

Table II.C.12 - Number and percent of biological children under 18 years of age by age of child according to parents' drug use pattern, and rate relative to all children in category: 1991

Age of child	Children of past-month users			Children of past-year users			Total children in category	
	Number	Percent distrib.	Rate[1]	Number	Percent distrib.	Rate[1]	Number	Percent distrib.
0-2 years	1,282,985	20.4	10.8	2,648,788	20.6	22.3	11,901,808	17.4
3-5 years	1,252,918	19.9	9.8	2,544,170	19.8	20.0	12,744,868	18.6
6-8 years	1,057,685	16.8	8.9	2,231,332	17.3	18.8	11,878,171	17.3
9-11 years	1,114,296	17.7	9.4	2,197,479	17.1	18.6	11,820,710	17.3
12-14 years	751,125	11.9	7.1	1,630,097	12.7	15.5	10,546,669	15.4
15-17 years	839,888	13.3	8.7	1,628,963	12.6	16.9	9,615,700	14.0
Total (under 18 years)	6,298,897	100.0	9.2	12,880,829	100.0	18.8	68,507,926	100.0

[1] Percent of all children.

NOTE: Drug use includes any nonmedical use of marijuana or hashish, cocaine (including crack), inhalants, hallucinogens (including **PCP),** heroin, or psychotherapeutic drugs. Numbers and percentages may not sum to totals because of rounding. Past-year use includes use in the past month. Includes biological children whether or not living in the household. See Chapter I for information on special methods used to generate this table.

SOURCE: NIDA, 1991 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse.

Table II.C. 11 presents estimates of children of substance-abusing parents based on different definitions. For children in the household (i.e., biological children under 18 years old and any stepchildren or adopted children), it is estimated that 6.2 million, or 9.0 percent of all such children, have at least one parent who used illicit drugs in the past month. Almost 13 million (12.9 million) children, or 19 percent of all such children, have parents who used illicit drugs in the 12 months preceding the survey interview. The second definition used to count children of substance abusers-biological children under 18 years of age, with substance-abusing parents, regardless of whether or not they live with the parent in question—is necessary in order to examine the children by age. This method yields similar but slightly different estimates, as shown in the table.

Table II.C.12 focuses on biological children under 18 years old. It presents the age distributions of these children and the rates, which reflect the percentage of children who have substance-abusing parents. Across age groups, the highest proportion of children with parents who are past-month drug users is 10.8 percent, for children from birth to 2 years of age; approximately 1.3 million children in this age group are involved. This is followed by the 3-to-5 year age group, in which 9.8 percent (again, approximately 1.3 million children) have parents who used drugs in the past month. Past-year drug use by parents involves approximately 22 percent of children from birth to 2 years old (2.6 million children). Once again, it should be noted that age is a factor in these relationships, as younger parents tend to have younger children (or at least not to have older children), and younger persons are more likely than older persons to be drug users.

Based on the distributions of children by age, children of drug users generally are younger than children of all parents. For example, 17 percent of all children under 18 years old are under 3 years of age. The comparable figures for children of drug users are 20 percent for both past-month users and 21 percent for past-year users. (These numbers are calculated from data in the table.)

This concludes the discussion of the findings from the 1991 NHSDA. The next chapter presents information on drug-related emergency (ER) episodes involving women of childbearing age.

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III. THE DRUG ABUSE WARNING NETWORK (DAWN) 1991 ESTIMATES

This chapter presents information on drug-related emergency room (ER) episodes involving women of childbearing age (i.e., 15 to 44 years). It presents information on drugs mentioned in connection with these episodes and examines differentials associated with age and race/ethnicity.

A. Nature and Limitations of the Data

To be reported to DAWN, drug use in ER episodes must have been motivated by (1) the desire to achieve psychic effects (e.g., recreational use), (2) dependence, or (3) a suicide attempt. Drug use in a suicide attempt is regarded by many researchers as not fitting the paradigm of abuse as it is generally understood. For that reason, ER episodes in which suicide was reported as the drug use motive are excluded from this analysis.

Two skewing characteristics of DAWN must be recognized. First, ER cases disproportionately comprise low-income or uninsured persons. The care received by ER patients is often subacute and, in the case of persons with higher incomes or health insurance, would have been received in a physician's office rather than an ER. Second, once an episode is determined to involve drug abuse (i.e., drug use motivated by one of the considerations described above), all drugs mentioned usually are reported, including drugs which may not have been abused. Thus, drugs reported to DAWN have not always been abused or used illicitly and may not, in themselves, have been the cause of the emergency.

The differences cited in section B have not been subjected to statistical testing. Hence, it is not known whether they would be reliable in repeated sampling.

B. Drugs Mentioned in ER Episodes Involving Women 15 to 44 Years Old

Table III.B. 1 shows that, in 1991, there were an estimated 76,770 ER episodes involving women 15 to 44 years of age in which drug abuse was a factor; nearly 122,000 drug mentions were reported in these episodes. The most frequently mentioned drug was cocaine, which was reported in 39 percent of the episodes. Alcohol in combination with other drugs was reported in

Table III.B.1 - Number of mentions and percent distribution of emergency room episodes involving women 15-44 years of age, by selected drug group according to race/ethnicity: 1991

Drug category: Therapeutic class and drug group	Total [1]		White		Black		Hispanic	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percen	Number	Percent
TRANQUILIZERS	6,875	9.0	5,489	15.3	618	2.3	297	4.2
Diazepam	2,313	3.0	1,843	5.2	193	.7	140	2.0
Alprazolam	1,960	2.6	1,634	4.6	145	.5	50	.7
Other/unspecified	2,601	3.4	2,012	5.6	279	1.0	107	1.5
NARCOTIC ANALGESICS	16,030	20.9	7,832	21.9	5,584	20.4	1,599	22.8
Heroin/Morphine	10,944	14.3	4,537	12.7	4,421	16.1	1,259	18.0
Other/unspecified	5,086	6.6	3,295	9.2	1,163	4.2	341	4.9
NONNARCOTIC ANALGESICS	7,576	9.9	4,906	13.7	1,341	4.9	871	12.4
Aspirin	2,554	3.3	1,594	4.5	453	1.7	366	5.2
Acetaminophen	3,212	4.2	1,920	5.4	710	2.6	381	5.4
Other/unspecified	1,811	2.4	1,393	3.9	178	.7	124	1.8
SEDATIVES	2,244	2.9	1,377	3.8	396	1.4	315	4.5
ANTIDEPRESSANTS	3,376	4.4	2,429	6.8	490	1.8	301	4.3
ANTIPSYCHOTICS	1,265	1.6	637	1.8	397	1.4	132	1.9
AMPHETAMINES	2,280	3.0	1,535	4.3	192	.7	321	4.6
HALLUCINOGENS	1,614	2.1	788	2.2	414	1.5	206	2.9
OTHER DRUGS								
Alcohol-in-combination	22,180	28.9	10,612	29.7	8,187	29.9	1,460	20.8
Cocaine	29,830	38.9	8,168	22.8	7,043	62.2	2,112	30.1
Marijuana/Hashish	3,822	5.0	1,714	4.8	1,509	5.5	321	4.6
All other drugs	16,028	20.9	10,438	29.2	2,848	10.4	1,407	20.1
DRUG UNKNOWN	8,761	11.4	2,530	7.1	3,759	13.7	1,279	18.2
TOTAL DRUG MENTIONS [2]	121,880	158.8	58,454	163.4	12,775	156.0	10,622	151.5
Total drug abuse episodes	76,770	100.0	35,779	100.0	7,419	100.0	7,010	100.0

1 Includes episodes for which the patient's race/ethnicity was "other," unknown, or not reported.

2 As multiple drugs may be mentioned in each episode, the total number of mentions exceeds the total number of episodes. The percentages are based on the total number of episodes; therefore, the percentages in this row are greater than 100. Dividing these percentages by 100 gives the average numbers of drug mentions per episode.

NOTE: These estimates are based on a representative sample of non-Federal short-stay hospitals with 24-hour emergency rooms in the coterminous United States Episodes in which suicide was reported as the motive for drug use are excluded.

SOURCE: NIDA, Drug Abuse Warning Network (May 1992 data file).

29 percent of the episodes; it should be noted that alcohol is reported to DAWN only when mentioned in combination with another drug. Narcotic analgesics, including heroin and morphine, were mentioned in 21 percent of the episodes; nonnarcotic analgesics, including but not limited to aspirin and acetaminophen, were mentioned in 10 percent. Tranquilizers were mentioned in 9 percent of the episodes, and marijuana or hashish were mentioned in 5 percent.

There were considerable differences in drug mentions by race/ethnic@. Cocaine shows the largest race/ethnic@ differences: It was mentioned in 62 percent of episodes involving black women, 30 percent of episodes involving Hispanic women, and 23 percent of episodes involving white women. Tranquilizers were mentioned in 15 percent of episodes involving white women but only 2 percent of episodes involving black women and 4 percent of episodes involving Hispanic women. Nonnarcotic analgesics were mentioned in 14 percent of cases involving white women and 12 percent of episodes involving Hispanic women but only 5 percent of episodes involving black women. Narcotic analgesics were mentioned with similar frequency in the three groups, approximately 20 to 23 percent. Overall, 47 percent of the episodes involved white women, 36 percent involved black women, and 9 percent involved Hispanic women (calculated from numbers in the table).

Table II.I.B.2 presents drug mentions by age group. The youngest women were more likely to have taken nonnarcotic analgesics (27 percent of episodes), while women in the two oldest age groups were more likely to have taken narcotic analgesics (27 to 28 percent of episodes). Women in the two middle groups, those 20 to 29 and 30 to 39 years old, were substantially more likely to mention cocaine than those in the other age groups (46 and 43 percent respectively, compared with only 15 percent of episodes involving women 15 to 19 years old and 29 percent of episodes involving women 40 to 44 years of age). Alcohol-in-combination was mentioned in only 18 percent of episodes involving women 15 to 19 years old but 3 1 percent of episodes involving women 20 to 29 years of age and women 30 to 39 years old; alcohol-in-combination was mentioned in 29 percent of episodes involving women 40 to 44 years old. Overall, 14 percent of the total drug abuse episodes involved women 15 to 19 years old, 38 percent involved women 20 to 29 years of age, 40 percent involved women 30 to 39 years of age, and 9 percent involved women aged 40 to 44 years (calculated from numbers in Tables III.A. 1 and III.A.2).

This concludes the discussion of findings from DAWN. The next chapter presents a summary of the study and a discussion of the findings.

Table III.B.2 - Number of mentions and percent distribution of emergency room episodes involving women 15-44 years of age, by selected drug group according to age: 1991

Drug category: Therapeutic class and drug group	15-19 years		20-29 years		30-39 years		40-44 years	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
TRANQUILIZERS	349	3.3	1,861	6.4	3,844	12.5	821	12.4
Diazepam	101	1.0	722	2.5	1,233	4.0	257	3.9
Alprazolam	140	1.3	371	1.3	1,307	4.3	142	2.1
Other/unspecified	108	1.0	768	2.7	1,303	4.3	423	6.4
NARCOTIC ANALGESICS	705	6.6	5,289	la.3	8,163	26.6	1,872	28.3
Heroin/Morphine	166	1.6	3,629	12.6	5,896	19.2	1,252	18.9
Other/unspecified	539	5.1	1,661	5.8	2,267	7.4	619	9.4
NONNARCOTIC ANALGESICS	2,908	27.3	2,198	7.6	1,664	5.4	806	12.2
Aspirin	1,357	12.7	545	1.9	432	1.4	219	3.3
Acetaminophen	1,257	ii.8	1,039	3.6	698	2.3	217	3.3
Other/unspecified	295	2.8	614	2.1	533	1.7	369	5.6
SEDATIVES	265	2.5	926	3.2	890	2.9	163	2.5
ANTIDEPRESSANTS	529	5.0	1,007	3.5	1,500	4.9	339	5.1
ANTIPSYCHOTICS	149	1.4	369	1.3	523	1.7	224	3.4
AMPHETAMINES	664	6.2	882	3.1	667	2.2	67	1.0
HALLUCINOGENS	598	5.6	543	1.9	374	1:2	99	1.5
OTHER DRUGS								
Alcohol-in-combination	1,948	18.3	8,912	30.9	9,431	30.8	1,889	28.6
Cocaine	1,621	15.2	13,274	46.0	13,053	42.6	1,881	28.5
Marijuana/Hashish	920	8.6	1,745	6.0	1,020	3.3	137	2.1
All other drugs	4,034	37.9	6,068	21.0	4,458	14.5	1,467	22.2
DRUG UNKNOWN	879	a.3	2,617	9.1	4,145	13.5	1,120	16.9
TOTAL DRUG MENTIONS [1]	15,569	146.2	45,692	158.3	19,732	162.3	10,886	164.6
Total drug abuse episodes	10,650	100.0	28,858	100.0	30,650	100.0	6,612	100.0

I As multiple drugs may be mentioned in each episode, the total number of mentions exceeds the total number of episodes. The percentages are based on the total number of episodes; therefore, the percentages in this row are greater than 100. Dividing these percentage by 100 gives the average numbers of drug mentions per episode.

NOTE: These estimates are based on a representative sample of non-Federal short-stay hospitals with 24-hour emergency rooms in the coterminous United States. Episodes in which suicide was reported as the motive for drug use are excluded.

SOURCE: NIDA, Drug Abuse Warning Network (May 1992 data file).

IV. SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

This chapter provides summaries for the separate portions of the study, including the analyses of data on (1) substance abuse by women of childbearing age, (2) parental substance abuse and children at risk, and (3) drugs most frequently mentioned in emergency room (ER) episodes involving women of childbearing age. The implications of these findings are discussed briefly in the last section of this chapter.

A. Substance Abuse by Women of Childbearing Age

The data from the 199 1 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse (NHSDA) show that 9.7 million women of childbearing age (i.e., 15 to 44 years old) are past-year illicit drug users and that 4.6 million women of childbearing age used drugs in the past month. These figures translate into prevalence rates of 16.4 percent for past-year use and 7.8 percent for past-month use. Marijuana, the most commonly reported drug, was used by 12.2 percent of women in the past year and by 5.6 percent in the past month. Population estimates show that 7.2 million women 15 to 44 years of age used marijuana in the past year and that 3.3 million used it in the past month. Cocaine use in the past year is reported by 3.4 percent of women, and 1 .O percent of women used this drug in the past month. Six percent used psychotherapeutic drugs nonmedically in the past year, and 2.1 percent used these drugs in the past month.

Outside the rubric of illicit drugs, one-seventh of women 15 to 44 years of age used alcohol at least weekly for the past year. One-ninth of women in this age bracket engaged in binge drinking--consumption of five drinks on one occasion-at least once in the month prior to the interview, and 5.6 percent of women did so at least three times in that period.

Women 18 to 19 years old have the highest prevalence rates of drug use, followed by those 20 to 25 years of age. Data according to race/ethnic&y show little systematic difference in prevalence rates for black and white women 15 to 44 years of age, but Hispanic women have significantly lower rates of past-year and past-month use than either black non-Hispanic or white non-Hispanic women.

Examining the differentials according to marital status, women who are divorced or separated have far higher rates of drug use than do women who are currently married; unemployed women have higher rates than do women who are employed full time or part time or women not in the workforce; and women with 8 to 11 years of education have higher drug use rates than do women with either more or less education.

Surprisingly, there is little difference in the prevalence of drug use among women in large metropolitan areas, small metropolitan areas, and nonmetropolitan areas. One factor underlying this finding may be the inclusion of nonmedical use of psychotherapeutic drugs in the overall category of illicit drug use.

Women who have children have far lower prevalence rates for past-month and past-year drug use than do women without children, regardless of the ages of the children; these differences are statistically significant. The women's ages may be a factor in this finding, as women with no children may be younger than those who have children, and younger women have higher rates of drug use than older women.

Data on family income show that the rate of drug use tends to decline with increasing income. Rates of drug use are significantly higher among women below the poverty line than among those above the poverty line. Again, age may be a confounding variable in this observation, as younger people tend to make less money-and to be more likely to use drugs— than older people.

B. Parental Substance Abuse and Children at Risk

Overall, 4.7 million past-month illicit drug users have biological children under 18 years of age, and 70 percent of these parents, including 84 percent of mothers and 59 percent of fathers, have at least some of their children living with them. With the addition of stepchildren and adopted children, 3.4 million past-month drug users are parents and have their minor children living with them. Among all parents in this category, the rate of past-month drug use is 5.3 percent.

A total of 5.35 million parents (2.66 million mothers and 2.68 million fathers) with minor children in their household used marijuana in the past year, and 2.60 million parents (1.27 million mothers and 1.32 million fathers) used this drug in the past month. The prevalence of past-month marijuana use is 4.1 percent (3.6 percent for mothers and 4.7 percent for fathers). Weekly use of

marijuana over the past year is reported by a total of 1.4 million parents, and daily or almost daily use of this drug over the past year is reported by almost 900,000 parents,

Use of cocaine (including crack) in the past year is reported by 1.8 million parents (a prevalence rate of 2.9 percent), and past-month use of this drug is reported by approximately 625,000 parents (a prevalence rate of 1 .O percent). An estimated 170,000 parents reportedly used cocaine weekly for the past year.

Alcohol, which is not one of the illicit drugs considered in detail in this study, reportedly was used daily or almost daily over the past year by 5.2 million parents (a prevalence rate of 8.2 percent overall, 3.8 percent for mothers, and 14 percent for fathers). Episodic heavy (binge) drinking-consumption of five or more drinks on at least three occasions in the past 30 days-also was reported by 5.2 million parents (a prevalence rate of 8.1 percent overall, 4.0 percent for mothers, and 13 percent for fathers).

Younger parents are more likely to use drugs than are older parents. The highest rates of drug use are seen for parents 20 to 25 years of age. In this group, the prevalence rates for any illicit drug use are 24 percent for past-year use and 12 percent for past-month use. Stating this relationship another way, parents who use drugs tend to be younger than parents overall. (See Appendix 2 for a discussion of 1992 analyses which found a different pattern among younger age groups.)

Parents' rates of drug use also differ according to their marital status. Four percent of married parents are past-month drug users, compared with 13 percent of parents who have never married and 10 percent of those who are divorced or separated. Age differences between these groups may explain some of the differences in drug use rates.

Rates of drug use also differ according to employment status and educational level. The rate of past-month drug use is 17 percent for parents who are unemployed and just under 5 percent for those who are employed either full time or part time. Based on educational level, the highest rate of past-month drug use, 9.8 percent, is found for persons with 8 to 11 years of education.

Despite expectations to the contrary, prevalence rates do not differ greatly according to population density. For example, the prevalence rates for past-month drug use are 5.2 percent in metropolitan areas of over 1 million, 6.0 percent in smaller metropolitan areas, and 4.7 percent in nonmetropolitan areas. Past-year drug use prevalence rates across the three types of areas vary

less than 1 percentage point (from 11 .O percent for large metropolitan areas to 11.9 percent for nonmetropolitan areas).

Rates of drug use generally are lower for parents with higher family incomes. For example, the prevalence rate for past-month illicit drug use is 9.5 percent for parents below the poverty line, compared to 4.6 percent for those above the poverty line (significant at the $p<0.01$ level). When income is considered as a percentage of the poverty level, the highest rate of past-month drug use, 11 percent, is found for parents whose income is 50 to 99 percent of the poverty level, As with marital status, age may play a role in these differences by income level.

Analyses of the data on children show that an estimated 12.9 million children under 18 years of age live with a parent who reports using illicit drugs in the past year. This figure, which is derived from the 1991 NHSDA, represents approximately 19 percent of all children in this age group. Of the 12.8 million children, 6.2 million-9 percent of children under 18 years old-have parents who report having used illicit drugs in the past month. Illicit drug use includes any use of illegal drugs such as cocaine, marijuana, heroin, or hallucinogens and nonmedical use of prescription psychotherapeutic drugs such as tranquilizers, stimulants, sedatives, and analgesics.

Children under 18 years old who live with parents who use drugs tend to be younger than children overall. For example, 20 percent of children of both past-year and past-month drug users are under 3 years old, whereas 17 percent of all children are in this age group. This is consistent with the findings, discussed below, that drug use is more prevalent among younger parents than among older parents.

C. **Drugs Mentioned in ER Episodes Involving Women 15 to 44 Years Old**

The 1991 data from the Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) were used to analyze the profile of drugs reported in connection with ER episodes involving women of childbearing age (i.e., 15 to 44 years). Women in this age bracket account for an estimated 76,770 ER episodes in 1991, excluding episodes involving drug use motivated by a suicide attempt.

Cocaine was mentioned in connection with 39 percent of these episodes. Alcohol, which is reported to DAWN only when mentioned in combination with other drugs, was mentioned in 29 percent of the cases. Narcotic analgesics were reported in 21 percent of the cases; this category includes heroin/morphine, which was mentioned in 14 percent. Nonnarcotic analgesics were

mentioned in 9.9 percent of the episodes, and tranquilizers were mentioned in 9.0 percent. Marijuana was reported in only 5.0 percent of episodes.

DAWN data according to race/ethnicity show that cocaine was more likely to be reported in episodes involving black women (62 percent) than in episodes involving white women (23 percent) or Hispanic women (30 percent). Tranquilizers, on the other hand, were mentioned in connection with 15.3 percent of episodes involving white women, compared with 2.3 percent of episodes involving black women and 4.2 percent of episodes involving Hispanic women. Nonnarcotic analgesics were mentioned in 13.7 percent of cases involving white women, 12.4 percent of cases involving Hispanic women, and 4.9 percent of cases involving black women. In interpreting these findings, it should be remembered that the profile of ER drug abuse cases may be influenced by the disproportionate proportions of low-income or uninsured persons in the caseload of many ER's.

Cocaine was mentioned more frequently in episodes in which the woman was 20 to 39 years old than in episodes in which the woman was 15 to 19 years old or 40 to 44 years old. Mentions of nonnarcotic analgesics were prominent among patients 15 to 19 years old but relatively rare for those 20 to 39 years old. Heroin/morphine was reported in 12 percent of episodes in which the woman was 20 to 29 years old and 19 percent of those in which the woman was 30 to 44 years old. This drug rarely was mentioned in episodes involving women 15 to 19 years old.

D. Discussion

The estimated number of children whose parents reported illicit drug use-12.9 million, nationally, for past-year users and approximately 6.2 million for past-month users--is quite noteworthy. Many children of substance abusers will suffer social and emotional effects of living in households in which substance abuse affects parental functioning, and some children will be at risk for abuse or neglect. In addition, some of the children in substance-abusing families will have been exposed to alcohol and other drugs prenatally.

The data presented in this report show that drug use among parents, as among the general household population, appears to be closely related to age, income/poverty status, and a host of other factors which are themselves interrelated. It is important to note that while rates of drug use are higher among poor parents, most substance-abusing parents and their children are not poor. In

fact, nearly three-fourths of past-month drug-using parents have incomes above the poverty line, and over one-fourth have incomes more than three times the poverty line.

This study clearly indicates that many families are affected by substance abuse and that many children in all types of communities are growing up in families where alcohol and drug abuse are present. The fact that so many families and children are directly affected by alcohol and drug abuse strongly suggests that mainstream service providers working with families in health, social services, and education systems need to be aware of the potential for abuse of alcohol and drugs among their clients, and should play an active role in identifying and intervening with families, including referral for appropriate treatment. Drug treatment programs must recognize that a portion of individuals seeking their services are likely to be parents with young children, and that services appropriate to families are needed. Moreover, the effectiveness of services for children and families at risk would be enhanced through better coordination among providers.

APPENDIX 1

RESULTS OF STATISTICAL TESTING OF SELECTED DIFFERENCES

As mentioned in the introduction, selected differences in estimated rates of drug use in different population subgroups presented in this report have been tested to determine their statistical significance. The contrasts selected for testing all involve estimates from the 1991 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse (NHSDA); no tests were done on estimates from the two other data sources. This appendix presents the results of the statistical tests, which involve selected contrasts of rates presented in tables II.B.4, II.B.9, II.B.lO, II.C.5, and II.C.10.

For each selected comparison, this appendix shows the variable tested; the subgroups over which the contrast was tested; the domain involved; the estimated rate of drug use in each subgroup (expressed as percentages); the standard error (SE) of the rate in each subgroup (expressed as percentages); the difference between the rates in the two subgroups (expressed as a percentage); the correlation coefficient for the two rates; the SE of the difference between the two rates (expressed as a percentage); the Z-value based on the difference and the SE of the difference; the probability associated with that Z-value, assuming a normal distribution; and asterisks identifying statistically significant differences and giving the level of significance (0.05, 0.01, or 0.001).

The complex design of the NHSDA sample requires special methods of calculating SEs of estimates and of differences between estimates. The SESUDAAN software package, which was used to determine the SEs and precision levels of all estimates published in this report, also was used to determine the SEs of the differences between the estimated drug use rates observed among different population subgroups. SESUDAAN provides a direct means of obtaining the SE of the differences for contrasts involving estimates for mutually-exclusive subgroups in a given domain (e.g., males versus females). For race/ethnicity, rates were compared for three categories (white, black, and Hispanic); this generated three pairs of contrasts (white versus black, white versus Hispanic, and black versus Hispanic). SESUDAAN does not provide a direct means of testing the equivalence of three or more estimates.

The likelihood of a type I error (wrongly rejecting the null hypothesis, i.e., erroneously concluding that two estimated rates are different when they are not) for individual contrasts is the

probability level or significance level shown in the tabulations in this appendix. However, the overall error rate for a group of comparisons increases as the number of comparisons increases. One way to reduce the overall error rate is to reduce the criterion significance level (alpha level or probability of a type I error) applied to each comparison in the set.

Pairwise tests of significance of differences in substance use prevalence rates for specific comparisons in selected tables

Variable'	Contrast (PI vs P2)	Domain	P_1	SE1	P2	SE2	Diff. (P_2-P_1)	Correlation	SE of diff.	Z-value	Prob.	
Table II.B.4												
SUMMON	White vs Black	N/A	7.73	0.49	9.58	0.82	1.85	-0.01	0.96	1.94	0.0527	
SUMYR	White vs Black	N/A	17.26	0.70	15.92	1.04	-1.34	-0.09	1.31	-1.02	0.3066	
SUMMON	White vs. Hispanic	NIA	7.73	0.49	6.17	0.56	-1.57	-0.06	0.76	-2.05	0.0399	*
SUMYB	White vs. Hispanic	N/A	17.26	0.70	10.64	0.84	-6.62	-0.05	1.13	-5.88	0.0000	***
SUMMON	Black vs. Hispanic	N/A	9.58	0.82	6.17	0.56	-3.42	0.14	0.93	-3.68	0.0002	*
SUMYB	Black vs. Hispanic	N/A	15.92	1.04	10.64	0.84	-5.28	-0.02	1.35	-3.91	0.0001	***
Table II.B.9												
SUMMON	With vs Without Children	N/A	5.65	0.47	il.25	0.67	5.60	0.10	0.78	7.17	0.0000	***
SUMYB	With vs Without Children	N/A	11.81	0.71	23.45	0.86	11.64	-0.02	1.13	10.29	0.0000	***
Table II.B.10												
SUMMON	Above vs. Below Pov. Line	N/A	12.93	0.93	6.60	0.44	-6.33	0.01	1.03	-6.18	0.0000	*
SUMYB	Above vs. Below Pov. Line	N/A	23.84	1.58	14.60	0.56	-9.24	-0.04	1.70	-5.44	0.0000	*

(Continued)

[1]SUMMON is use of any illicit drug in the past month; SUMYR is use on any illicit drug in the past year.

NOTE: P-rate and SE=standard error. P_1 and P_2 are the prevalence rates (in percentages) for the first and second categories in the comparison, respectively. SE_1 and SE_2 are the standard errors (in percentages) for P_1 and P_2, respectively. N/A=not applicable. *=p<0.05; **=p<.01; ***=p<.001 . See footnotes on tables referenced.

SOURCE: NIDA, 1991 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse.

Pairwise tests of significance of differences in substance use prevalence rates for specific comparisons in selected tables (continued)

Variable[1]	Contrast (P_1 vs P2)	Domain	PI	SE_1	P2	SE2	Diff. (P_2-P_1)	Correlation	SE of diff.	Z-value	Prob.	
Table B.C.5												
SUMMON	White vs. Black	All Parents	4.63	0.57	9.49	0.89	4.86	-0.08	1.09	4.44	0.0000	***
SUMYR	White vs. Black	All Parents	10.93	0.68	15.93	1.27	5.00	-0.09	1.60	3.12	0.0016	**
SUMMON	White vs. Hispanic	All Parents	4.63	0.57	5.21	0.70	0.59	-0.03	0.92	0.64	0.5231	
SUMYR	White vs. Hispanic	All Parents	10.93	0.88	9.65	0.97	-1 .oa	-0.05	1.34	-0.81	0.41 a5	
SUMMON	Black vs. Hispanic	All Parents	9.49	0.89	5.21	0.70	-4.27	0.02	1.12	-3.60	0.0001	***
SUMYR	Black vs. Hispanic	All Parents	15.93	1.27	9.85	0.97	-6.08	0.03	1.57	-3.87	0.0001	***
Table II.C.10												
SUMMON	Above vs. Below Pov. Line	All Parents	9.53	1.58	4.63	0.43	-4.91	0.15	1.57	-3.12	0.0016	**
SUMMON	Above vs. Below Pov. Line	Mothers	6.99	0.99	4.64	0.57	-2.34	-0.16	1.21	-1.93	0.0533	
SUMYR	Above vs. Below Pov. Line	All Parents	16.91	1.96	10.06	0.72	-8.85	0.02	2.07	-4.27	0.0000	***
SUMYR	Above vs. Below Pov. Line	Mothers	15.69	1.69	9.60	0.83	-6.09	-0.02	1.69	-3.22	0.0013	**

[1] SUMMON is use of any illicit drug in the past month; SUMYR is use on any illicit drug in the past year.

NOTE: P=rate and SE=standard error. P_1 and P2 are the prevalence rates (in percentages) for the first and second categories in the comparison, respectively. SE1 and SE2 are the standard errors (in percentages) for P_1 and P2, respectively. *=p<0.05; **=p<.01; • **=p<.001. See footnotes on tables referenced.

SOURCE: NIDA, 1991 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse.

APPENDIX 2

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AMONG WOMEN AND PARENTS:

Preliminary Analysis of 1992 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse Data on Drug Use by Parents and Comparison with **1991** Results

INTRODUCTION

The main body of this report focuses primarily on the 1991 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse. Since that analysis began, data from the 1992 Household Survey has become available. This Appendix describes the results of preliminary analysis of the 1992 data which was undertaken to confirm our primary analysis and determine whether there were findings in the 1991 analysis which appeared suspect upon analysis of the new data.

In general, the results for the 1991 and the 1992 surveys were quite similar. Overall prevalence rates of drug use by women and parents were relatively stable, as were estimates of the numbers of children living in drug using households. In both years, illicit drug use rates were associated with demographic characteristics such as age, race, employment status, marital status, education and poverty.

The detailed analysis we conducted of this data included estimating prevalence rates by multiple factors. For instance we looked at use rates of persons who were parents and in a particular age group. While the Household Survey has a relatively large sample size, by the time these multiple classifications are made, the individual cell sizes can get quite small. While each of the figures included in the report meet SAMHSA standards for precision, except where noted in the main report differences in prevalence rates between subgroups have not been tested for statistical significance. In addition, none of the differences between 1991 and 1992 data have been tested for statistical significance. The reader is cautioned that because of the small sample sixes, some of the apparent patterns for drug use among demographic subgroups may be due to data instability. This is particularly true where there are discrepancies between the 1991 and 1992 data.

Below,' specific similarities and discrepancies between 1991 and 1992 data are identified. In each area reference is given to the page numbers in the main report to which these findings relate. While many of the findings in the main report held true in 1992, two areas in particular were somewhat different:

In comparisons between racial and ethnic groups, while in 1991 black non-Hispanics had higher prevalence rates for illicit drug use than did white non-Hispanics, for most subgroups the rates in 1992 were quite close among the general population of parents. This relates to a greater than expected decline in reported drug use among blacks in 1992 generally. This unexpectedly large decline was evaluated by a Peer Review Committee organized by the Office of Applied Studies in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN 1991 AND 1992

Note that these discrepancies have not been tested for statistical significance and are probably due to data instability rather than any real difference between 1991 and 1992.

Mothers/Fathers/Parents by Demographic Subgroup

In 1991 the highest prevalence rate by age group of past month and past year illicit drug use for mothers and all parents was for the 20 - 25 year old age group (24.2 percent for parents and 23.1 percent for mothers, page 28). However, in 1992, the highest prevalence rate for past month and past year illicit drug use for mothers and all parents was for the 15 - 19 year old age group (23.9 percent for all parents and 25.6 percent for mothers).

In 1991 the prevalence rate for past year illicit drug use for black non-Hispanic parents (15.9 percent) was higher than for white non-Hispanic parents (10.9 percent, page 30). This was also true for past month illicit drug use as well as for mothers and fathers. In 1992 the prevalence rates for white non-Hispanics (11 .O percent for past year illicit drug use by parents) were very close and in some cases larger than the prevalence rates for black non-Hispanics (11.8 percent for past year illicit drug use by parents).

DETAILED DISCUSSION OF THE ANALYSIS

Children by Age

In both 1991 and 1992, the age distribution for children with at least one parent reporting drug use for the past year and past month is disproportionately younger than for children overall (page 39). Consistent with this finding, the prevalence rate for having a parent who has used illicit drugs in the past month was higher for younger children.

Women (Age 15 - 44)/Parents by Age

In both 1991 and 1992, parents who report drug use (past year or past month) tend to be disproportionately younger than parents in general (page 15). In 1991, the proportion of parents less than 30 years old among past month users is 44 percent, while the proportion less than 30 years old for the total population is only 26 percent. In 1992, the corresponding percents are 41 percent for past month users and 26 percent for all parents. In 1992, 46 percent of the women who report past month illicit drug use are under 26 years of age, while

the percent of women under 26 in the total population was 32 percent. These patterns for drug use and age are also true for women 15 - 44 years of age.

Consistent with the findings above, prevalence rates for both past month and past year illicit drug use for both parents and women tend to be higher among the younger age groups (page 15). This is true for both 1991 and 1992. In both 1991 and 1992, women 18 - 19 years old had the highest prevalence rate of past year illicit drug use. For 1991 the rate was 30.6 percent and for 1992 the rate was 24.5 percent. In 1991, women 18 - 19 years old had the highest prevalence rate of past month illicit drug use (15.6 percent). However, in 1992 the prevalence rate for past month illicit drug use for women 15 - 17 years old (9.0 percent) was slightly larger than for women 18 - 19 years old (8.9 percent).

Women (Age 15 - 44)/Parents by Marital Status

In 1991 and 1992 the distribution by marital status for illicit drug users differs from the general population (page 17). In both 1991 and 1992 the proportion of women 15 - 44 years of age who were never married is higher for past month and past year illicit drug users than for all women and the proportion of women age 15 - 44 who are married is lower for past month and past year illicit drug users than for the general population. In 1991 the percent of women never married for past year drug users was 52 percent and the percent never married for all women was 33.6 percent. This pattern by marital status is also true for parents in both 1991 and 1992.

In both 1991 and 1992 for all parents and for women 15 - 44 years of age, the prevalence rates for past month and past year illicit drug use are highest for never married persons and lowest for married persons. The rate for past year illicit drug use for never married women was 25.3 percent for 1991 and 22.1 percent for 1992. For married women the rate was 9.3 percent for 1991 and 9.4 percent for 1992.

Drug use rates are generally higher for fathers than for mothers. However, in 1991 drug use rates among divorced and separated parents were higher for mothers than for fathers. In 1991 11.5 percent of mothers and 8.2 percent of fathers reported past month drug use among divorced or separated parents. In 1992 among divorced and separated parents, drug use rates for fathers were higher than mothers with 6.9 percent of mothers and 8.7 percent of fathers reporting past month illicit drug use.

Women (Age 15 - 44)/Parents by Employment Status

In 1991 and 1992 the distribution by employment status for illicit drug users differs from the general population (page 17). In both 1991 and 1992 the proportion of women 15 - 44 years of age who are unemployed is higher for past month and past year illicit drug users than for the overall population and the proportion of women who are employed is lower for the past month and past year illicit drug users than for the overall population and the proportion of women who are employed is lower for past month and past year illicit drug users than for the general population. For past month drug using women age 15 - 44, the proportion who are employed is 37.2 percent in 1991 and 35.9 percent in 1992 and for all women the proportion who are employed was 46.4 percent in 1991 and 45.9 percent in 1992. For past month drug using women 15 - 44, the proportion who were unemployed was 13.4 percent in 1991 and 16.7 percent in 1992. For all women 15 - 44 the proportion who were unemployed was 7.2 percent in 1991 and 8.0 percent in 1992. This pattern by employment status is also true for parents in both 1991 and 1992.

Consistent with the findings above the prevalence rates by employment status for past month and past year illicit drug use are highest for the unemployed and lowest for the employed in both 1991 and 1992. This is true for women 15 - 44 years of age and for both parents and mothers.

Women (Age 15 - 44)/Parents by Education Level

In both 1991 and 1992 the proportion of women 15 - 44 who did not finish high school was higher for drug users than for the total population (page 18). The proportion of past month drug using women 15 - 44 who did not finish high school was 20.1 percent in 1991 and 21.4 percent in 1992. The proportion of all women 15 - 44 who did not finish high school was 13.7 percent in 1991 and 15.0 percent in 1992. Consistent with these findings the prevalence rates for past month and past year illicit drug use are highest among women and parents with a- 11 years of education (12.3 percent in 1991 and 10.8 percent in 1992 for women).

In 1991 and 1992 there was little difference in the rates of illicit drug use in large metropolitan areas, small metropolitan areas and non-metropolitan areas.

SUMMARY OF THE ANALYSIS

In general the results for 1991 are similar to the results for 1992. However, there are some differences. One of the most consistent differences between 1991 and 1992 was for the prevalence rate of illicit drug use by race. In 1991 illicit drug use was highest for black non-Hispanics while in 1992 it was highest for white non-Hispanics. This occurred for mothers, fathers and parents and for past month and past year use.

Small sample sizes and unstable estimates may be the reason for some of the differences, between 1991 and 1992 and some of the differences mentioned in the report for 1991 may not be significant.

Table lll.B.2 - Number of mentions and percent distribution of emergency room episodes involving women 15-44 years of age, by selected drug group according to age: 1991

Drug category: Therapeutic class and drug group	15-19 years		20-29 years		30-39 years		40-44 years	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
TRANQUILIZERS	349	3.3	1,861	6.4	3,844	12.5	821	12.4
Diazepam	101	1.0	722	2.5	1,233	4.0	257	3.9
Alprazolam	140	1.3	371	1.3	1,307	4.3	142	2.1
Other/unspecified	108	1.0	768	2.7	1,303	4.3	423	6.4
NARCOTIC ANALGESICS	705	6.6	5,289	18.3	8,163	26.6	1,872	28.3
Heroin/Morphine	166	1.6	3,629	12.6	5,896	19.2	1,252	18.9
Other/unspecified	539	5.1	1,661	5.8	2,267	7.4	619	9.4
NONNARCOTIC ANALGESICS	2,908	27.3	2,198	7.6	1,664	5.4	806	12.2
Aspirin	1,357	12.7	545	1.9	432	1.4	219	3.3
Acetaminophen	1,257	11.8	1,039	3.6	698	2.3	217	3.3
Other/unspecified	295	2.8	614	2.1	533	1.7	369	5.6
SEDATIVES	265	2.5	926	3.2	890	2.9	163	2.5
ANTIDEPRESSANTS	529	5.0	1,007	3.5	1,500	4.9	339	5.1
ANTIPSYCHOTICS	149	1.4	369	1.3	523	1.7	224	3.4
AMPHETAMINES	664	6.2	882	3.1	667	2.2	67	1.0
HALLUCINOGENS	598	5.6	543	1.9	374	1.2	99	1.5
OTHER DRUGS								
Alcohol-in-combination	1,948	18.3	8,912	30.9	9,431	30.8	1,889	28.6
Cocaine	1,621	15.2	13,274	46.0	13,053	42.6	1,881	28.5
Marijuana/Hashish	920	8.6	1,745	6.0	1,020	3.3	137	2.1
All other drugs	4,034	37.9	6,068	21.0	4,458	14.5	1,467	22.2
DRUG UNKNOWN	879	8.3	2,617	9.1	4,145	13.5	1,120	16.9
TOTAL DRUG MENTIONS [1]	15,569	146.2	45,692	158.3	19,732	162.3	10,886	164.6
Total drug abuse episodes	10,650	100.0	28,858	100.0	30,650	100.0	6,612	100.0

[1] As multiple drugs may be mentioned in each episode, the total number of mentions exceeds the total number of episodes. The percentages are based on the total number of episodes; therefore, the percentages in this row are greater than 100. Dividing these percentage by 100 gives the average numbers of drug mentions per episode.

NOTE: These estimates are based on a representative sample of non-Federal short-stay hospitals with 24-hour emergency rooms in the coterminous United States. Episodes in which suicide was reported as the motive for drug use are excluded.

SOURCE: NIDA, Drug Abuse Warning Network (May 1992 data file).